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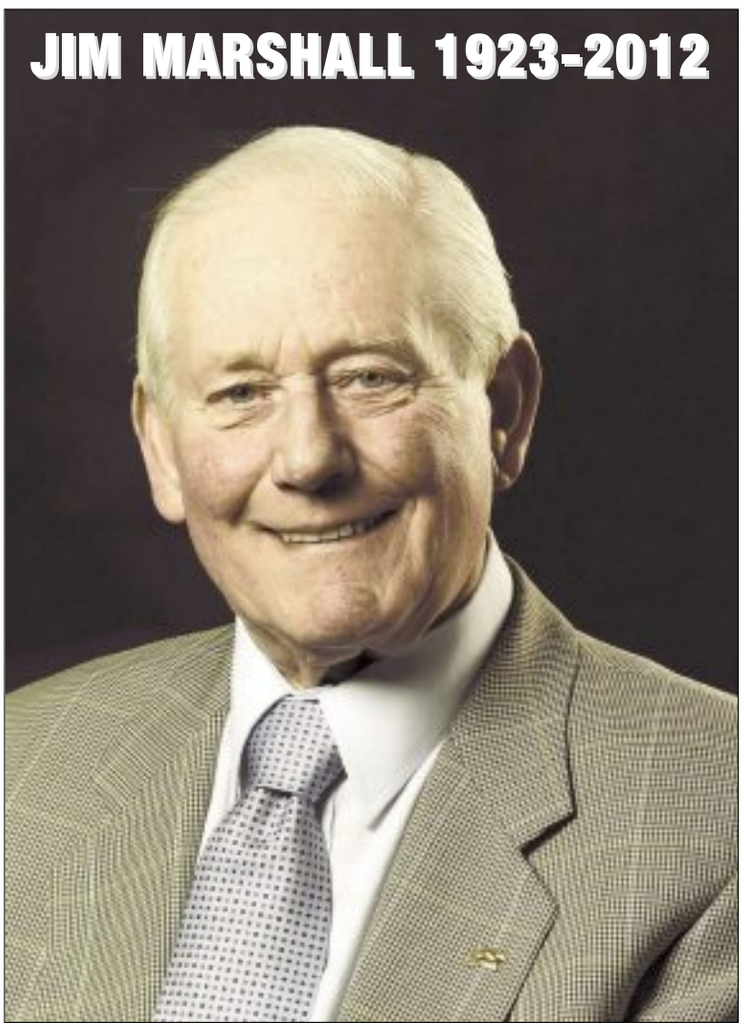

THE man behind the iconic brand Marshall Amplification has died. To read the full story and tributes to the music legend, turn to page 3.

Casino gets go-ahead at Xscape site

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

THE decision to award Xscape the licence to host the city's large casino has been called 'the last thing' nearby residents need.

The controversial decision by Milton Keynes Council's (MKC) licensing sub-committee was announced yesterday.

The site was chosen over two others, at stadiummk and the Leisure Plaza, and was the only one to receive serious opposition from residents.

Abshir Hirze, chairman of the MK Somalia Platform, thinks the decision will be bad for those living in nearby Fishermead and other central estates.

He said: "It was very shocking news, after all we presented and told them about how this community is so fragile - not only the Somali community but the whole community in Fishermead. The last thing they need is this casino next to a residential area."

He believes gambling for nearby communities will be difficult to avoid due to the fact many will walk past the casino to get to the city centre.

Looking to the future: How the inside of the new casino will look

But Richard Noble, COO of operators Aspers, said they want to work with the community to create employment and will help those with signs of existing gambling problems who visit the casino.

He said: "We will self exclude those people and actually work with them to point them to people who can help them."

The company will also set up a Community Action for Responsible Gaming Group to support those with an interest in problem gaming, but Mr Noble said he doesn't think the casino will add to this.

The 38,000-square-foot casino is expected to open in early 2013, creating 250 new jobs.

It will have a restaurant, two bars, 30 gaming tables and 150 slot machines and will replace the bowling alley which will move to the floor above. At least £500,000 will be given to MKC every year during the life of the casino to support communities with new initiatives.

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Exhibit 'pops up' at gallery

THIS was one of a number of artworks on show at an exhibition and networking event for contemporary artists at MK Gallery on Thursday.

The piece, called Kate's Kiss II (unfinished) by Emily Nixon, was on show at the 'pop-up', one-night-only event organised by HARK!

Formed in 2011 as a collaboration between Milton Keynes-based artists Tara Williamson and Hannah Gaunt, HARK! says it is committed to enabling the development of contemporary creative practise, and addressing the long-term artistic concerns of individuals.

HARK! is open to emerging contemporary artists and practitioners based in the city and the surrounding region, who share its vision to create a supportive network of peers.

The free event offered exhibitors and others the opportunity for critical discussion, peer review and a chance to experiment and gain feedback in a supportive and friendly environment.

They were able to discuss their work's content, form and display, while they showed off their pieces and used the opportunity to meet other local artists and mingle and play with ideas.

Kate's Kiss II: The piece by Emily Nixon. Picture by Simon St Clare

Lack of lights a factor in another road death

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

TURNING off the lights on grid-roads has contributed to another death, an inquest has heard.

Sherwin Sequeira, 57, of Great Holm, died after he was knocked off his bike by a taxi on the H5 Portway between the Portway and North Grafton roundabouts.

He died at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford on October 12 last year, 11 days after the collision.

He was cycling in the third lane of the road in an unstable fashion and a taxi driver, who thought he may have been drunk, pulled up beside him and told him that he should be cycling on the other side of the road.

Shortly after this he was hit by a different taxi.

At the inquest yesterday, collision investigator Daniel Henderson explained that because the grid lights were turned off the driver would only have seen him a second before the incident and he would have needed double this time to react.

Last week MK NEWS exclusively revealed that there was a similar fatality on another grid-road where the lights had also been switched off.

No formal risk assessment was carried out by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) before the decision was made to turn off 2,700 grid-road lights and there was no consultation with the police.

Neil Biggs, traffic management officer for Milton Keynes, explained that had MKC gone to the police and said it wanted to switch off the lights on that stretch of road he would have opposed the idea.

On April 3 coroner Tom Osborne wrote to MKC to ask it to reconsider the switch off under a 'rule 43' report, where a coroner is concerned a similar death might occur.

Andrew Jackman from MKC said that the council's decision would be made 'in due course.'

MKC has 56 days to respond to the report.

Erratic cycling not suicide attempt, rules coroner

THE brother of the cyclist explained his family is unhappy with the health care made available to the 57-year-old during yesterday's inquest.

Mr Sequeira was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and the hearing was told the family felt let down by the health services.

He was visited at home by a psychiatric nurse on September 29, just days before the collision.

Mr Sequeira was said to be warm and welcoming but his house was in disarray and his behaviour was 'cluttered, confused and chaotic.'

However, he showed no signs that would suggest that he wanted to take his own life and coroner Tom Osborne ruled that his erratic cycling was not part of a suicide attempt and recorded his death was an accident.

During the inquest Lennard Sequeira, the brother of the cyclist, said: "We as a family and my brother himself have been let down by the authorities."

Until he lost his job in January last year Mr Sequeira was working as a computer programmer. During the home visit he showed the nurse his office where he said he was running an IT business but they did not believe that this was the case.

In July he underwent an operation to remove a clot in his brain and Mr Osborne heard that it was then that his behaviour seemed to take a turn for the worse.

According to his brother he had taken up drinking again and the psychiatric nurse said he had seen bottles of alcohol at his house in Great Holm and believed he might have been intoxicated at the time.

Mr Sequeira's had battled with mental health problems for a long time, although issues came about infrequently with the last occurring in 2000-2001.

Tributes paid to Dr Jim Marshall

Minute's applause: Terry Marshall, *left*, with Pete Winkelman and sister Victoria paying tribute at MK Dons

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

THE Father of Loud, Dr Jim Marshall OBE, has died aged 88.

He passed away on Thursday morning at Willen Hospice, surrounded by his family.

As the founder of Marshall Amplification based in Bletchley, Dr Marshall is widely credited with changing the world of music with his amplifiers.

It is for this reason that thousands of tributes from around the world have been flooding in to his family and a specially-created website, www.jimmarshall.co.uk, where more than 3,000 people have left messages.

A tribute concert has also been announced for later this year, which will also celebrate 50 years of Marshall Amplification.

At their Bank Holiday Monday match against Tranmere Rovers, MK Dons held a minute's applause before the game in his memory, which was led by his son Terry and daughter Victoria, along with chairman Pete Winkelman.

During the 11th minute of the match there was another round of applause to honour one of his favourite sayings, 'turn it up to 11'.

Speaking to MK NEWS, Terry, who started the company with his father, said he was 'an example to everyone that what you get out of life is what you put into it'.

He said: "He suffered with TB and was in plaster until he was 11 or 12, so he's never had any real schooling. He then went to dance school to strengthen his legs, then started singing and a drummer in a band he was in asked him if he wanted to try drums, which he did.

"So I've always had music in my family. He always used to enjoy listening to people like Bing Crosby, so that sort of music was his love.

"He was a workaholic and he burned the candle at both ends and in the middle - he lived a full life. When we started up we got up early and finished late, and that's the way my life has always been.

"I was in the shop in the day, he would be teaching many, many people drumming, and then I was out playing professionally in the evening."

About the company, Mr Marshall said: "Ambition rules and we just went with the flow.

"It's taken him all over the world and there's hardly a country he hadn't been to.

"Every country you can think of has a Marshall distributor.

"It's like a family, the whole company, including the musicians, and we loved being in each others' company.

"It's a wonderful business to be in and we realise how lucky we were to be in the music business, because we are not dealing with customers, we are dealing with friends."

Among the company's first customers were Eric Clapton and Pete Townsend of The Who, who was a big fan of the amps.

Pete Winkelman, himself a music entrepreneur, has also been paying tribute this week.

He said: "Jim was a wonderful and generous man who never took his worldwide success for granted. He always stepped up to the plate and supported the Milton Keynes community in many ways, helping to establish The Stables and providing funding to our club, MK Lions, Milton Keynes Athletics and the MK Boxing Club to name but a few."

Tributes have also been made by musicians the world over. One of the most famous guitar players in the world, former Guns 'N' Roses band member Slash, said on his Twitter page: "The news of Jim Marshall passing is deeply saddening. R&R will never be the same without him. But his amps will live on forever."

A funeral for family will now be held, although details of this are being kept secret. Instead of flowers the family is asking for donations to be made to Willen Hospice.

Witnesses to M1 death are sought

TWO men who may be able to help police investigating a fatal accident on the M1 on March 27 are being urged to come forward.

Believed to be in their late 40s or early 50s, they were on the overbridge off Tongwell Lane, in Newport Pagnell, at the time of the incident, in which a 42-year-old woman was killed when she was hit by a lorry.

Anyone with information should call Sgt Simon Hills on 101.

Travellers' site back on the agenda

COUNCILLORS have taken the unusual step of arranging extraordinary meetings to discuss a proposed travellers' site.

The extra meetings of Milton Keynes Council's full council and decision-making cabinet have both been arranged for Wednesday night, in an attempt to bring to an end the debate over the site at Fenny Lock.

A decision was recently made by the Tory-led cabinet to scrap the project in favour of using the £1.2million set aside to build ten houses with wheelchair access.

This decision was 'called in' by 20 city residents and referred to the executive scrutiny panel to reconsider.

It asked the council to look again at the issue, but due to local elections the next meeting was not going to be held until June.

This would have meant the development of the houses could not start until the issue was resolved.

It will now be debated again and an ultimate decision made next week.

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Resolve travellers' site issue once and for all

SIR - I in common with the great majority of residents in Fenny Stratford, Simpson and Bletchley am appalled that the council cabinet's decision to reject the mooted Fenny Lock travellers' site development has been questioned.

The officers carried out an extremely thorough, objective and impartial review of the project resulting in an unequivocal recommendation that the project be abandoned in favour of using the unexpended money in other much more effective ways of meeting priority housing needs.

This not the first time that the Fenny Lock site has been investigated and found unsuitable for a travellers' site.

The site's potential was identified initially in April 2000, but thorough examination of it determined it was in fact totally unsuitable.

When the former council administration resurrected the current prolonged saga, the findings of the former rebuttal report were totally ignored.

How long can this farce of keeping the issue unresolved be allowed to continue?

Rodney Evans
Fenny Stratford

Risks of road blackout should have been seen

SIR - The story on page one of MK NEWS dated April 4 makes for sad reading, but what is also very disturbing is your revelation that no formal risk assessment was carried out by Milton Keynes Council before the decision was made to turn off 2,700 grid road lights.

Those of us who drive on the grid road system on a regular basis will already have experienced the difficulty of driving in the hours of darkness, including the evening rush hour.

We have been required to move without warning through alternating lit and unlit stretches of road and this has been particularly worrying when driving on single carriageway grid roads.

Any instinctive urge to use full headlights on unlit stretches is understandably a potential driving hazard to oncoming traffic.

Your news article indicates that stakeholders such as the police were not consulted 'because it was felt there were no safety implications'.

I wonder on which planet Milton Keynes Council has been living if it cannot understand the potential road safety hazard of drivers being required to move frequently in and out of unlit stretches of road.

Uncharitably, one can only assume that there is a net saving to the council as consequent road accident costs will presumably be charged to other authorities.

It is so depressing that the death of a pedestrian should be the prompt for a further examination of the council's road lighting policy and I for one will await with considerable interest the authority's response to the coroner's report.

Gloria Isaacs
Portland Drive
Willen

'Worst' casino decision

SIR - The casino decision was the worst possible one they could have taken.

The cost of policing this, on top of the influx of existing theatre district people, must be huge.

As for the social cost of a gambling outfit, centrally in a town of largely young people, one dreads to think.

Geoff Long
Sent by e-mail

Warren's story inspired me to give sign a clean

SIR - With reference to your story 'Do it yourself - a sign of the times' (MK NEWS, March 28).

Well done Warren for helping to smarten up our city - there are plenty of other places that need the same treatment.

Spurred on, I got my bucket and mop and went and cleaned up a sign on the redway at the bottom of the road.

While the sign looks nicer, unfortunately it exposed some graffiti underneath that water would not remove.

My wife regularly plants small colourful flowers under our street sign - I wish others would follow on my estate and around the city.

And finally, before the water police say that this is a waste of water, the cleaning water was taken from one of our water butts.

Maybe a photo competition for the worst signs and sites around our city would help spur on improvements, or at the very least help inform our council where the blights are, as well as help voluntary groups focus their efforts.

John Hunt
Two Mile Ash

Witness a magistrates' court in action at event

SIR - Each year we give the opportunity to members of the public in Milton Keynes to attend an open morning at the magistrates' court.

Here you will see the courts operating, in the company of an experienced magistrate.

Your guide will be pleased to talk to you about becoming a magistrate and what is involved in the work of the court.

We find that these sessions are interesting to people, whether or not they are contemplating applying to become magistrates themselves.

The dates for this year's open mornings are all Wednesdays:

- May 16
- June 20
- July 11
- August 15

Each session lasts from 9.30am until 1pm.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance by emailing mkmic@hotmail.co.uk.

Gay Jennions
Milton Keynes co-ordinator,
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Chance to make a splash with charity

SIR - Ahoy there, calling all boat owners, seafarers (past and present) RNLI members and supporters. We would like to make you aware of our existence.

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Rod Law
Chairman, RNLI Milton Keynes

Jon Brett's City Life

Written exclusively for MK NEWS

Church Street in Wolverton

WOLVERTON, a town once famous for its train heritage, can now be named the takeaway and hairdressing capital of Europe.

Within a quarter mile radius of the Agora in the centre of this historic corner of Milton Keynes, there are a staggering 20 eateries and ten salons.

No other similar sized town with a population of about 13,500 offers a greater concentration of choice when it comes to scoffing or shampooing.

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It's fair to say that you'll never go hungry, you'll be spoilt for choice.

And the same is true of hairdressing with a hair curling choice of hairdressers and barbers, plus nail salons.

While this wasn't a scientific survey, quite why the good folk of Wolverton need such a variety of takeaways and salons remains a mystery.

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Wife jailed over false rape claim

A SPURNED housewife's claim of rape backfired when her husband showed police a video of them enjoying sex together.

A judge was told on Thursday how Kelly-Ann Ferguson had been filmed by husband Paul on his mobile phone.

Now the 23-year-old, of Tinkers Bridge, has started a nine-month prison sentence for the rape allegation, which was disproved when police viewed Mr Ferguson's video clip.

Judge Lord Parmoor, sitting at Amersham Law Courts, heard Ferguson had met her husband to try to patch things up.

But when Mr Ferguson told her he didn't want her back, she went to the police and said she had been raped.

Police arrested Mr Ferguson but in an interview he told them he had recorded the alleged rape.

The judge heard Ferguson was seen on the video to be giggling and laughing. Police interviewed her and she admitted she had made up the story.

Prosecutor Meryl Hughes said: "The couple had married in December 2010 but the marriage broke down and she left the marital home on April 14, 2011. On the 27th the pair met to discuss the marriage and they went back to his home, her former home."

It was then Ferguson alleged the rape took place.

Ms Hughes added: "She said after the rape he went into a crazy rage and told her to get out and never come back.

"Her husband was arrested and he told police he had recorded it all on his mobile phone.

"Officers went to speak to Ferguson to challenge her about the video and she confirmed no offence had taken place.

"She told police she had felt, at the end of the evening, he treated her badly and dismissed her."

Mr Ferguson spent 15 hours in custody and Thames Valley Police spent nearly £1,500 investigating the claim.

Katherine Duncan, defending, said: "She is full of remorse for her actions. Her marriage had broken down and she was in an emotional state.

"She said he had behaved in an unchivalrous way towards her and she had been hurt by this."

Weekend weather didn't dampen Easter fun

Chocolate treats: Youngsters at Bletchley Park get ready to head for the Easter Trail

DESPITE the horrible bank holiday weather, hundreds of people across the city were still determined to enjoy their Easter weekend.

The annual Easter Eggstravaganza took place at Bletchley Park on Monday, with children of all ages trying to find as many treats as possible in the Easter Egg Trail.

There was also a lot going on at the park over the holidays, with a Hunt the Chick Trail and spy workshops.

There was also plenty to do at Xscape, with craft workshops to make Easter cards and baskets and decorate eggs.

There was also an Easter Egg coconut shy and Percy Penguin and the SNO!zone team ran a number of activities.

Meanwhile, families enjoyed free rides at the Theatre District's fair and shoppers got Lost in Wonderland at the centre:mk's maze.

Super-fast a must in city

NEW research shows that 95 per cent of people in the city want super-fast broadband.

Following a survey carried out by Milton Keynes Council and technology forum Biztech last year, it was also revealed 83 per cent of residents are still unaware the high-speed internet technology is available to them.

Find more information, including a postcode checker for superfast broadband availability, at www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when/.

Turing petition is on the money

NEARLY 15,000 people have signed an online petition which calls for Alan Turing to be featured on £10 notes.

The Bletchley Park codebreaker is described as a national hero on the e-petition, set up on the Government's website by Thomas Thurman.

He said: "His contribution to computer science, and hence to the life of the nation and the world, is incalculable.

"The ripple-effect of his theories on modern life continues to grow, and may never stop."

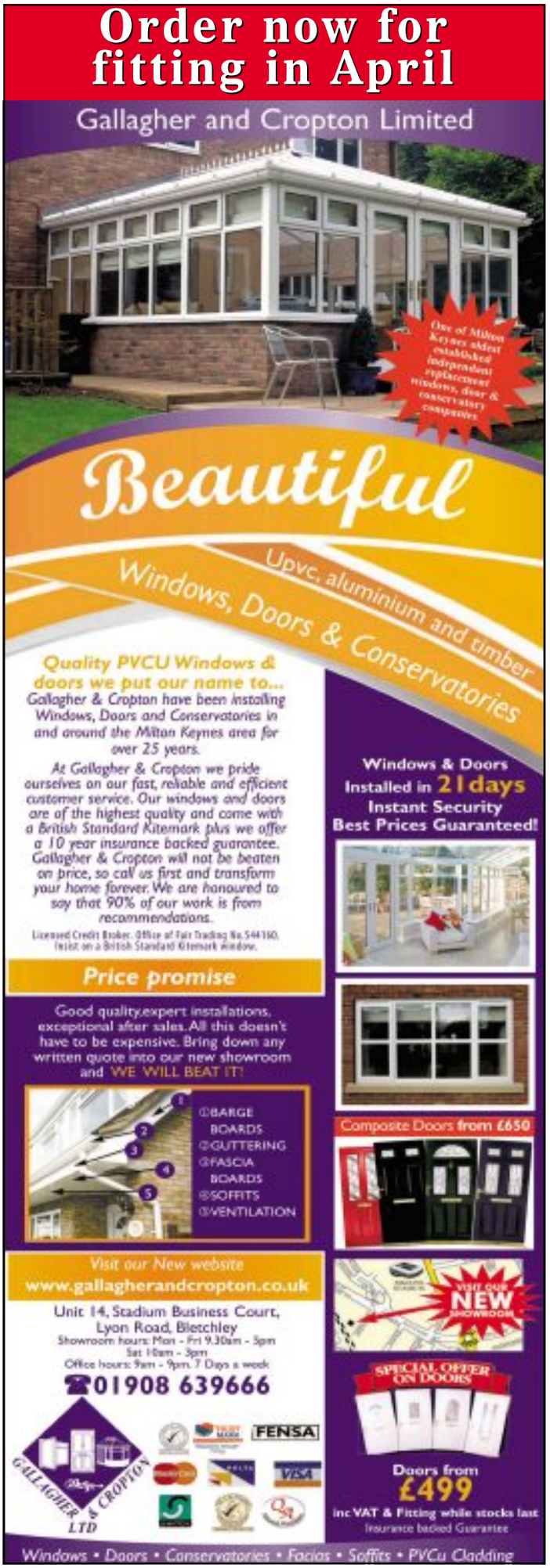
Mr Turing's work was a vital component in the Allied effort during the Second World War.

And the petition is also being backed by Professor Barry Cooper, who is heading up 'Alan Turing year' which is being marked in 2012. A number of events are being held to celebrate his 100th birthday.

Professor Cooper said: "I think it's a great idea.

"Turing has not really been recognised in a great way in this country and putting him on the £10 note would be a good way of introducing him into national culture.

"He is up there with Darwin and Einstein."



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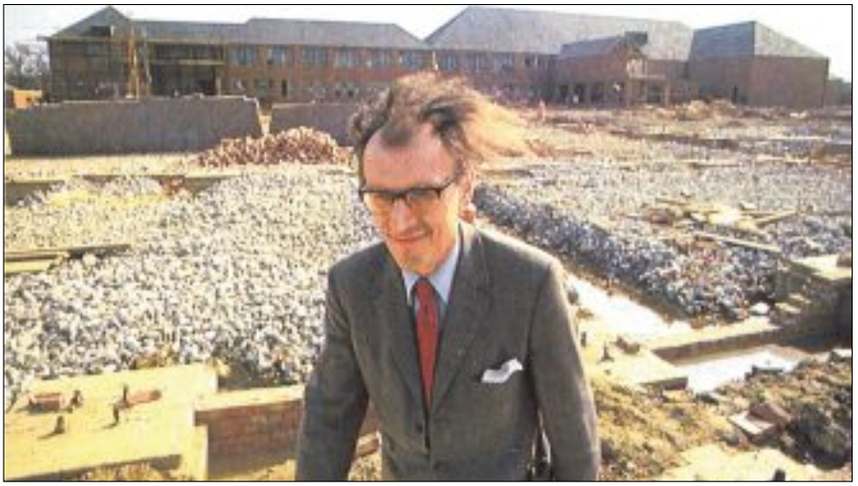

Pioneer: Geoff Cooksey on site during the building of Stantonbury Campus

Founder of Stantonbury Campus dies

THE pioneering founder of Stantonbury Campus has passed away at the age of 86.

Geoff Cooksey was the original director of Stantonbury Campus, the first purpose-built comprehensive school for the new city of Milton Keynes and now one of Britain's largest schools.

Appointed three years before it opened in 1974, Geoff planned its structure and buildings and gained the trust of the community, ensuring that the founding principles of the campus survived.

In 1987 the Open University awarded him an Honorary MA for Services to Education.

He started the Stantonbury project after gaining experience at Wellingborough Grammar School, where he inspired the young Sir David Frost, Chester City Grammar School, Colne Valley High School and Shirebrook School in Derbyshire.

He then undertook the highly prestigious job of Secretary of the Schools Council.

A larger than life person, Geoff was valued worldwide by organisers of educational events and conferences. He was also an accomplished cricketer and golfer and a versatile pianist.

He could lecture on Shakespeare and show you how to repair a vintage motorcycle.

The Sixth Form Hall at Stantonbury is named Cooksey after Geoff and his grandson, Tom Hare, is currently studying there.

Geoff, who died on March 23, is survived by his wife Cynthia, two sons, John and Tom, from his first marriage to Beryl and two grandsons, Christopher and Robert.

Council U-turn on narrow bus lanes

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

COMMUTERS are in a state of disbelief after it was revealed that the bus lanes at a multi-million pound terminal are too narrow for buses to safely use.

The buses blunder at Station Square comes after Milton Keynes Council (MKC) originally denied the problem existed, providing a photograph to assure people that two buses could get through the 6.3 metre wide lanes.

Although it is standing by its initial assessment of the lanes, they will now be made wider and more bus shelters will be added to accommodate future bus use.

A spokesman said: "We believe the original design of the bus lanes was adequate, however, as a result of extensive consultation with local stakeholders and user groups, we have looked at this element of the project again.

"We are effectively 'future proofing' the site."

However, bus and train users think this is too little too late.

Tracy Campbell, 44, from Two Mile Ash, said: "The people who make these decisions probably don't use public transport so they can't appreciate how frustrating it is when things go wrong. I can't believe that something so simple could be overlooked. Surely prevention is better than cure?"

The reconfiguring of the bus lanes will cost around £80,000 but the council says that this is a lot less than it would be if work was done a few years down the line.

The cost of the work will also be covered by the original £2.3million set aside for the project.

The spokesman added: "With hindsight perhaps we should have probably programmed this in earlier. However, on a big project like this, certain issues come to light as the project develops."

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Overturned lorry

PART of H3 Monks Way was closed for two hours yesterday after a lorry overturned and spilled a load of soil. Police were called at 10.49am, and closed off the road along with part of the V10 until 1pm. The driver suffered a minor leg injury.

More racers are needed

MORE entrants are needed for West Bletchley Council's Soap Box Race as part of the jubilee celebrations on June 3. To take part call 01908 648257, or email carnival@westbletchley council.gov.uk before May 8.

Teen gets torch

A TEENAGER from Milton Keynes College who cares for her sick mother has been selected as a torchbearer for the upcoming Olympic torch relay.

Eighteen-year-old Charlotte Ellis has been left alone to look after her mother Debbie, whose illness doctors have struggled to diagnose.

She was nominated for the relay by her grandmother Jill Ladd after having to combine the care with her schoolwork and passion for canoeing.

"I am really nervous about running with the torch as I don't want to drop it," she said.

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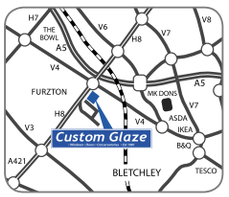

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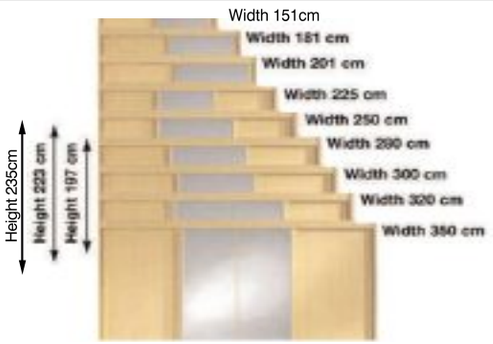

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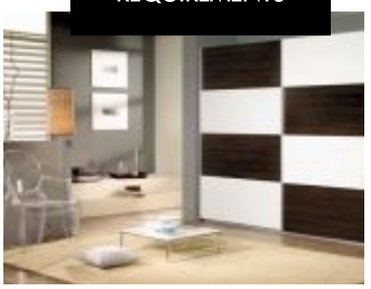

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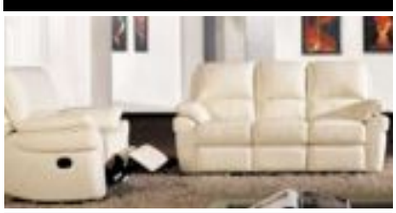

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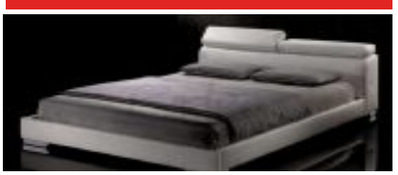

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X marks the spot for Station stamp

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

ONE of the borough's favourite heritage sites has received the Royal stamp of approval.

Station X at Bletchley Park has been announced as one of 14 UK landmarks chosen by Royal Mail to feature on its new A-Z stamp series.

The first part of the collection, A-L, was released last year and today the second half is unveiled, with Station X representing 'X'.

Philip Parker, Royal Mail's head of stamp strategy, admitted it was difficult to find an X, with places such as Exeter even being considered, but said that Station X was 'staring them in the face'.

He said: "It was difficult to find somewhere for X, and we did have other options, but then we had a brainwave.

"The reason we knew about Station X is because the post office played a very important role at Bletchley Park during the war, with our engineers working very closely with people there, including on the Colossus computers.

"The photo has been taken so it looks like the secret establishment that it was."

Station X joins places such as Queen's College Oxford (Q), the Victoria and Albert Museum (V) and York Minster (Y) in the collection. ZSL London Zoo represents Z.

Stamp of approval: Alistair Ratnage from Bletchley sorting office with the artwork for the Station X first class stamp

Bletchley sorting office worker Alistair Ratnage said he thinks Bletchley Park's inclusion is very fitting.

He said: "For the park itself this is great because I know it is always fighting for funding and this might help to raise its profile.

"I'm glad to be doing this because I grew up round here.

"We moved here in 1969 and Bletchley Park back then was still a bit of a secure environment, with guards on the gates. Now it's on a stamp."

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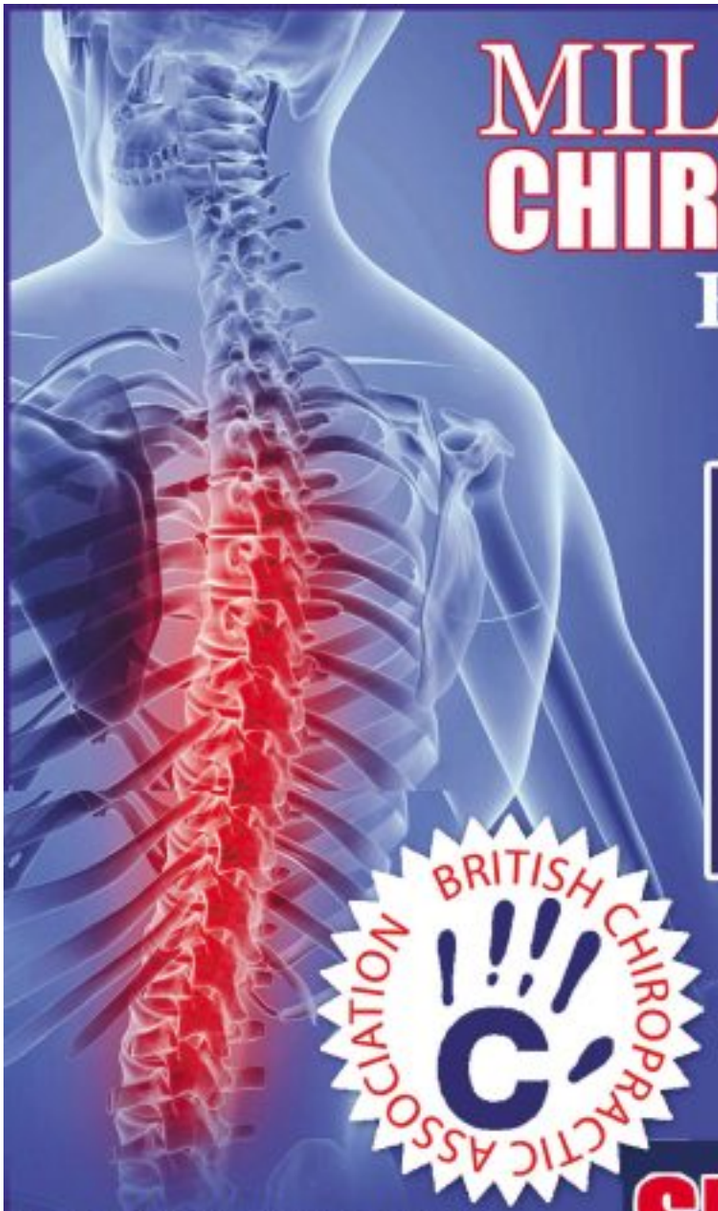

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Infamous route gets new layout

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

THE focal point of anger for many motorists on Bletchley's roads has now been addressed by Milton Keynes Council.

The infamous double roundabout at the intersection of Saxon Street and Watling Street - known locally as the B&Q roundabout - has now been updated.

The junction has been given a new layout, with one elongated roundabout, and the road leading up to the junction has been widened.

Project manager John McLaughlin said: "Preliminary observations suggest the junction is operating as anticipated.

"Feedback by the local community has been positive.

"The junction has been remodelled with the intention of reducing delays through the junction and helping motorists to select the correct lane, and has now been widened to allow for three lanes for traffic to use heading for Fenny Stratford.

"A new signing scheme has been added to ensure the recent works at Granby roundabout help to take some of the traffic away from the junction.

Remodelled: John McLaughlin at the revamped roundabout

"New road markings help drivers get in the right lane in plenty of time.

"We have elongated one of the roundabouts into a 'lozenge' to prevent inappropriate 360 turns, which in the past caused delays to queuing motorists."

He also said there will be a scientific monitoring exercise to evaluate how the new layout is performing, but that won't be until after the junction has 'settled in' and the school holidays are over.

■ **What do you think? Is the layout better than what was there before? Do you still have problems at that junction? E-mail letters@mk-news.co.uk.**

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Deal will create extra city parks

The Parks Trust chief executive David Foster

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

NEW parks will soon be appearing across the city thanks to a huge deal between the charity that looks after green spaces and a Government agency.

Last week, 92 hectares (227 acres) of parkland and green space was transferred to The Parks Trust from the Homes and Communities Agency, which took over from the Development Corporation.

More than 100 parcels of land was transferred to the self-financing charity, along with an endowment of nearly £10million that will be invested to provide income to pay for maintenance forever.

The sum transferred will enable the trust to maintain the land to the same high standard as existing parks such as Campbell Park, Willen Lake, Linford Wood and the Ouse Valley.

Trust chief executive David Foster said: "It's great news for the city.

"Getting it all into our ownership, under our management, means it will be properly looked after forever.

"With it comes the endowment, which is the sum of money we need to invest in order to pay for the management of this land forever. The residents of Milton Keynes won't have to pay through their council tax for this land to be maintained by The Parks Trust, so it's a fantastic deal for the city."

The trust says many of the parcels of land will greatly enhance existing parkland for residents.

Land transferred includes a site in Atterbury, which will extend the Broughton Brook Linear Park and provide an extensive area of wetland habitat for wildlife. New parks will be created for housing developments in Tattenhoe, Ashland and Kingsmead.

For a full list of additional parkland, visit www.theparkstrust.com.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Billy Harley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps.

Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Bedford, Milton Keynes & Leighton Buzzard areas and Billy is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Billy a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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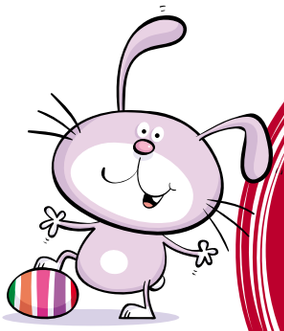

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Going the extra mile for charity

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

A MARATHON is no mean feat but one man is taking his running challenge to another level by completing 30 in 30 days.

Charlie Wardle, 37, founder of health and wellbeing charity Climb Your Mountain (CYM), will complete 26.2 miles around Milton Keynes every single day in June in an effort to raise £30,000.

The charity helps people who 'have a mountain to climb' by providing books, courses and support so they can improve their mental and physical health.

Mr Wardle said: "A lot of the people we help wouldn't have come to us if they'd had to fill out a form and explain what they were suffering from."

Since it was founded four years ago, the Milton Keynes based charity has helped more than 1,500 people by encouraging them to take part in activities and challenges.

Mr Wardle decided to set up CYM after he went through a period of depression himself after losing his business.

He explained: "People thought I was an active, successful young guy but really I was a recluse.

Ready to run: Charlie Wardle

"I didn't realise it at the time, but I was suffering from depression."

During this period he ran a number of marathons for charity and discovered that it really helped his wellbeing.

As well as sponsorship Mr Wardle is looking for people to run alongside him throughout the challenge.

He said: "The route is a figure of eight so in effect it's two half marathons.

"People can run, walk or jog a few miles, half a marathon or a full marathon."

So far 35 people have offered to join Mr Wardle on the run, including Mark Lancaster, MP for Milton Keynes North. Businesses can also get involved by sponsoring a day of the run.

Despite some people expressing concern that the challenge is too strenuous Mr Wardle is determined to see it through to the end.

He said: "Your mind tries to protect your body and tell you to stop but if you can get past that it's amazing what the human body can do.

"A lot of runners focus on getting a good time but for me it's not about speed, it's about endurance and that's what a lot of my training has focused on."

For more information, go to www.runwithcharlie.org.

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Watering a garden with a hosepipe. This also includes lawns, parks, public gardens and allotments.

Using a hosepipe for domestic recreation.

Non-commercial cleaning of domestic windows, walls, paths or patios with a hosepipe or jet wash.

Watering domestic plants with a hosepipe.

Washing private cars or boats with a hosepipe.

Filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain or pond.

Filling or maintaining domestic swimming pools and paddling pools.

Watering grass used for sport and recreation (except for field of play for national and international sporting events only).

Filling or topping up a domestic pond, not containing fish, using a hosepipe.

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anglianwater.co.uk/drought

Put a bit of cheer into squad's float

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

CREATIVE people across the city have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have their work viewed on a worldwide scale.

Pink Punters Club in Fenny Stratford will be representing Milton Keynes in this year's WorldPride and they are looking for residents to design their float.

Actress Laurel Jordan, 21, from Bletchley, put together the Rainbow Cheer Squad who will be performing on the Pink Punters float.

She explained: "The theme is 'one world, one pride, one voice' so we want people to come up with a concept that demonstrates this.

"We've come up with obvious designs so we'd like people to get a bit creative.

"Last year Pink Punters was the most followed float so it would be great exposure for an artist or designer."

Every year one country is asked to host WorldPride and this year it's the turn of us Brits.

The event will be held in London between the Olympic Games and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Cheers: The Pink Punters

As it is sandwiched between these two events organisers believe this year's WorldPride will be the biggest in its history.

The two-week event will be held between June 23 and July 8, with the main parade being held on July 7. It is expected to attract more than one million visitors.

The celebration is organised by InterPride and promotes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues on an international scale.

Miss Jordan said: "This year WorldPride is promoting diversity which is great. I'm straight so I think it's lovely that everybody is being encouraged to get involved."

Pink Punters is also looking for people in Milton Keynes to volunteer to get involved with the parade.

Entries need to be submitted to pride@pinkpanthers.com by April 30.

For more information contact Joe McMahon on joe@pinkpunters.com, or call 01908 377444.

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Trainers help to battle the bulge

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

Get active: Trainer Dean Barton

GETTING your beach body ready for summer will be that bit easier this year with free boot camp sessions.

The New Body Boot Camp in Kiln Farm is challenging residents to take part in its 1,000 pound melt-down challenge.

It is offering participants a 30-day weight loss programme to help them wave goodbye to their wobbly bits.

Founder Dean Barton wants to help people in Milton Keynes to slim down and fight the obesity epidemic.

He said: "A 1,000 pounds is a lot so we need as many people to get involved as possible."

Those who take up the challenge will experience a workout programme, nutritional support and weight loss tracking.

And with a number of training times to chose from between 6am to 8pm Monday to Saturday there's no excuse not to don you gym kit and get active.

Mr Barton said: "It is imperative that we inspire more people to become more healthy and participate in exercise that isn't just good for them but is fun and is in a positive environment."

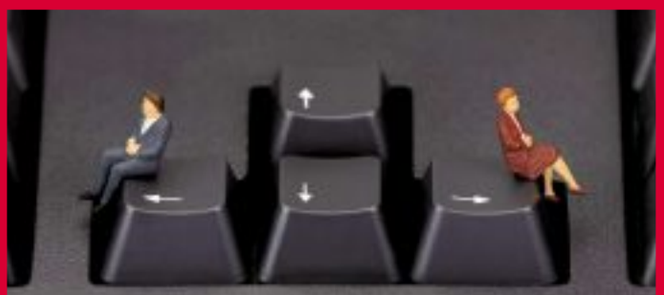
The workouts, designed round the Unstoppable Fitness Formula, are specially formulated to keep participants burning fat even after the workout.

Mr Barton added: "It isn't what you might expect from a boot camp, no one is yelling at you, it's a great active workout from beginning to end that jump starts your body into wanting to be active."

He explained that the melt-down challenge is part of New Body Boot Camp's vision to expose and engage 20 per cent of the UK's population to a healthy and fit lifestyle by 2020.

For more information call 07877 191945.

Heading in different directions?



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IF:2012 line-up to set

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

CAMPBELL Park will be on fire this summer as the city transforms into an amazing place of arts, music and adventure.

The programme highlights of the IF: Milton Keynes International Festival 2012, on July 20 to 29, have been announced.

The first IF festival in 2010 exceeded all expectations, bringing more than 90,000 people into central Milton Keynes. The festival returns this year for ten amazing days of performance, music, comedy, large-scale spectacle and free outdoor events.

IF:2012 will take over Milton Keynes' public spaces to engage people with music and sound in unexpected ways.

On the hill above the city, Campbell Park becomes festival central with the late-night Spiegeltent and a Theatre Tent hosting international companies.

As evening falls on the festival's opening night, French fire alchemists La Compagnie Carabosse will light up the sky with Fire Gardens.

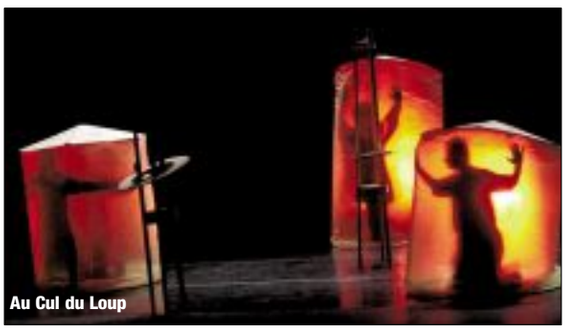
Accompanied by a live musical soundscape, fire sculptures, flaming fire pots and cascades of candles will set the park ablaze. Audiences can also find their way through pathways of flame in a magical experience.

The opening weekend sees the first-ever visit of Cambodian arts organisation Phare Ponleu Selpak to the UK with the British premiere of Rouge.

Appropriately for this Olympic year, IF: 2012 presents the first UK performances of Score since its success at the 2007 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Inspired by the triumphs and trials of sport, the performers of Au Cul du Loup have invented new sports and adapted existing ones to create a new world of sound.

Also, Catalonia-based Spanish theatre company Enfila't brings a blend of music, acrobatics, circus

Enfila't with Plecs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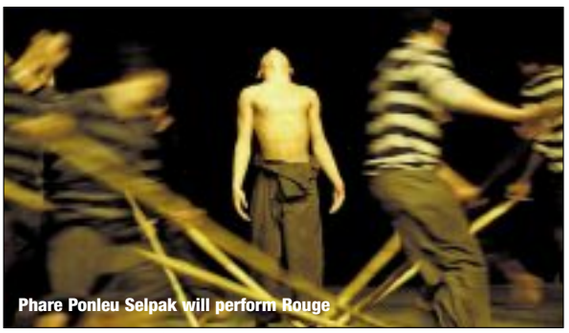
Milton Keynes ablaze

La Compagnie Carabosse will light up Campbell Park with the Fire Gardens



Phare Ponleu Selpak will perform Rouge

Duke Special

skills and dance with Plecs.

Elsewhere in Campbell Park, night owls and party animals can find first-class comedy and music in the Spiegeltent.

First up, Northern Irish singer/songwriter Duke Special inhabits a world of bruised romanticism, and the ever-popular, self-deprecating comedian Phill Jupitus warms up for Edinburgh with his latest show.

In Hardeep Singh Kohli's Indian Takeaway, the Glaswegian comic, chef and writer challenges a local Indian restaurant to cook a curry and deliver it to the audience faster than he can.

For more information, visit www.ifmiltonkeynes.org.

The full programme for IF: Milton Keynes International Festival will be announced in early May.

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Good cause: Mark Robinson and Martin Banham-Hall present a cheque for more than £1,000 to Mary Rose of Caudwell Children and the Ride 4 Maya Appeal

Team takes a ride to raise cash for Maya

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A TEAM of cyclists are celebrating a recent fundraising trip by handing more than £1,000 to a local kid's wheelchair appeal.

Team Heald Wheeled raised the cash by completing the Haute Savoie Challenge, a relay through France of more than 500 miles.

The money raised by Martin Banham-Hall, Chris Long, Nigel Bryne and Mark Robinson is being donated to the Ride 4 Maya Appeal. The initiative by national charity Caudwell Children helps pay for life-changing wheelchairs, such as the one bought for Maya Czerminska, three, from Olney, who has spinal muscular atrophy.

Maya now has her chair and the money raised will go to cover the costs of that and others needed by local children.

The donation comes just months before the group cycle 550 miles from Le Mans to Olney as part of their 'B2B' cycle challenge, in a bid to raise £40,000 for the appeal and Caudwell Children.

Mark, owner of WakeMK at Willen Lake, said: "This will be the third B2B charity ride and so far the team has raised £42,000 for good causes.

"Providing specialist equipment like a wheelchair so kids like Maya can have a happier life really struck a nerve with the team so we were delighted when we raised so much money."

To donate to the B2B cycle challenge visit www.b2bcycle.co.uk.

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Mark's book is a triathlete's bible

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

ONE of the world's most experienced triathletes is now passing on more than 30 years of experience to others.

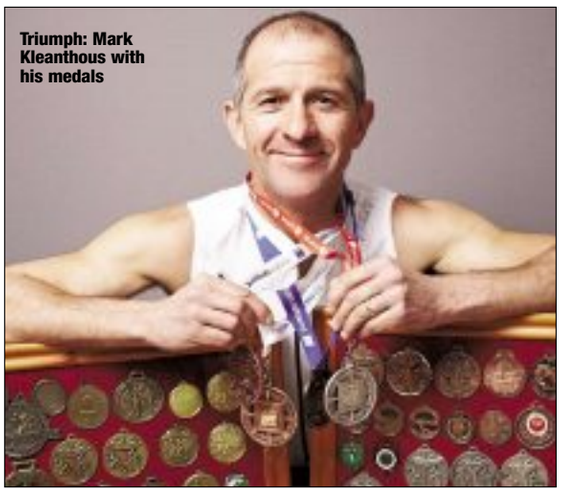
Mark Kleanthous, a long-serving member of the Milton Keynes Cycling and Triathlon Club, has penned a book so others can tap into his wealth of knowledge.

Fifty-one-year-old Mark has crossed the finish line in more than 400 triathlons across the world, covering more than 6,000 miles swimming, 51,000 running and 170,000 cycling.

He has also finished more than 30 Ironman races, as well as two double ironmans and even one exhausting triple, when he swam 7.2 miles, cycled for 336 and ran three marathons in a time of just under two days.

As he has racked up the mammoth distances over three decades, Mark does not think that many other people have as much triathlon experience under their belt as he does.

That means that there was nobody better suited to write his book, entitled The Complete Book of Triathlon Training.



Triumph: Mark Kleanthous with his medals

The book has taken him three years to write and covers areas such as physical and mental training, equipment, race information, safety and nutrition.

Mark was originally a marathon runner but cycling is now his favourite of the three disciplines.

He said: "To the best of my knowledge there are very few people who have been doing triathlons as long as I have.

"It was hard to put 30 years into one book without any jargon. The book tells you what sort of athlete you are and helps guide you, hopefully it takes away the fear factor about triathlons."

For more information about the book, or to buy a copy, visit Mark's website www.ironmate.co.uk.

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Make the right choices

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

UP TO 60 per cent of the patients who go to Milton Keynes A&E each day could be treated elsewhere so the local health service is ploughing its efforts into making sure people know where they should go to get the most tailored treatment.

Most of us believe that there are two ports of call when we get sick – our GP for those ailments that can wait a few days and A&E for urgent treatment.

But this is simply not the case and the Choose Well Campaign aims to get this message across.

Nowadays the NHS offers a range of services that, if properly used, would not only cut down A&E waiting times but could also improve the treatment patients receive.

Before you settle down in the A&E waiting room for a few hours, it's always best to consider self-care and advice available from NHS Direct, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Obviously treating yourself is not always possible but before rushing to A&E there are several other options to explore, including highly-trained pharmacists who are well-equipped to deal with an array of aches, pains and illnesses having undergone five years of training.

Bhervi Patel, a pharmacist at Cox & Robinson Chemists in Bletchley, said: "People don't realise how much help a pharmacy can give and sometimes our help is underutilised.

"One of the key facts that many people don't realise is that there is a minor ailments scheme which means that rather than going to A&E patients can come here and we can give them medication for simple things like thrush, athletes foot and fevers.

"If people find they are experiencing side effects from medicine they should ring their pharmacist who can tell them 'yes that's a side effect of the tablet' or whether it is something they should go to their doctor or A&E about, we can sign post them."

On a recent busy Saturday in A&E patients were being told to expect waiting times of up to four hours for minor injuries but a pharmacist can see people much quicker and offer confidential consultations.

Ms Patel added: "Pharmacies are very flexible in the time that we have in the sense that we are open for a long period of time. If you look for example at Bletchley its open from 7am right up to 11pm."

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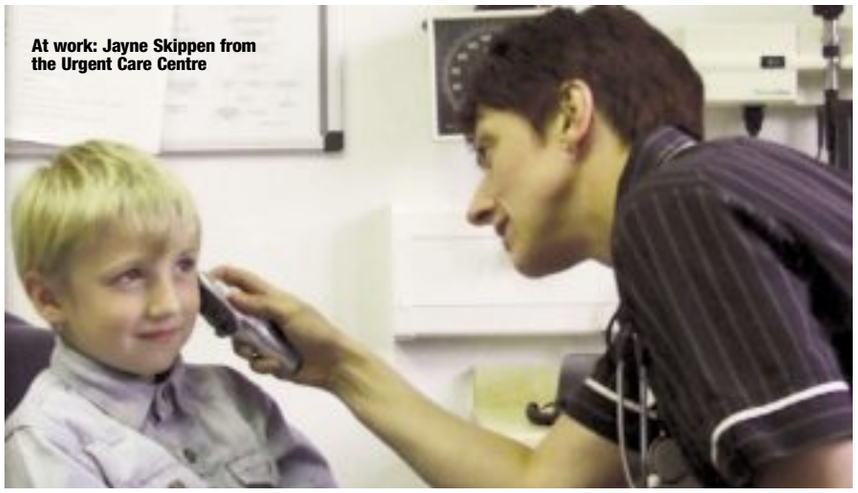
when it comes to health



At work: Jayne Skippen from the Urgent Care Centre

where to go for more serious ailments it may come as a surprise to some that just around the corner from A&E sits the Urgent Care Centre – a largely overlooked facility which is open all day every day and provides care for problems that cannot safely wait until you can get an appointment with your GP.

Jayne Skippen, head of nursing and clinical development at Milton Keynes Health Centre, said: "We conducted a survey that showed that up to 60 per cent of people going to A&E each day could be treated elsewhere. The Urgent Care Centre provides care for ailments such as sprains, strains and minor burns, whereas more serious injuries such as broken bones can be treated at A&E.

"Often it's the case that patients go to A&E when actually the doctors and nurses in Urgent Care would be better facilitated to treat them."

In the last year around 12,000 people who attended A&E in Milton Keynes were sent away without requiring any treatment, at a cost of approximately £1.1million so it is vital to make sure you choose the most appropriate service.

Dr Nicola Smith, chairman of MK Commissioning which represents GP practices in the area, said: "If you use the right service, this will not only save you time but also ensure that the busy staff at A&E can concentrate on treating the most serious cases."

For advice from NHS Direct call 0845 46 47.

And for more information on the range of options available, visit www.miltonkeynes-northamptonshire.nhs.uk/choose-well.

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Having a baby means a big change in your social life. You may be enjoying the developing bond with your baby, but miss the company of friends and colleagues. It can be a great help to make new friends who are in similar situations.

Ask your midwife and health visitor about networks, clubs and groups of parents such as the National Childbirth Trust, baby/toddler groups and Sure Start groups

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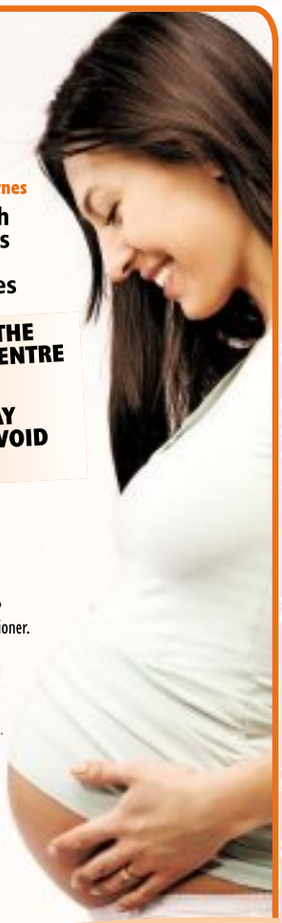

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MK LIFE

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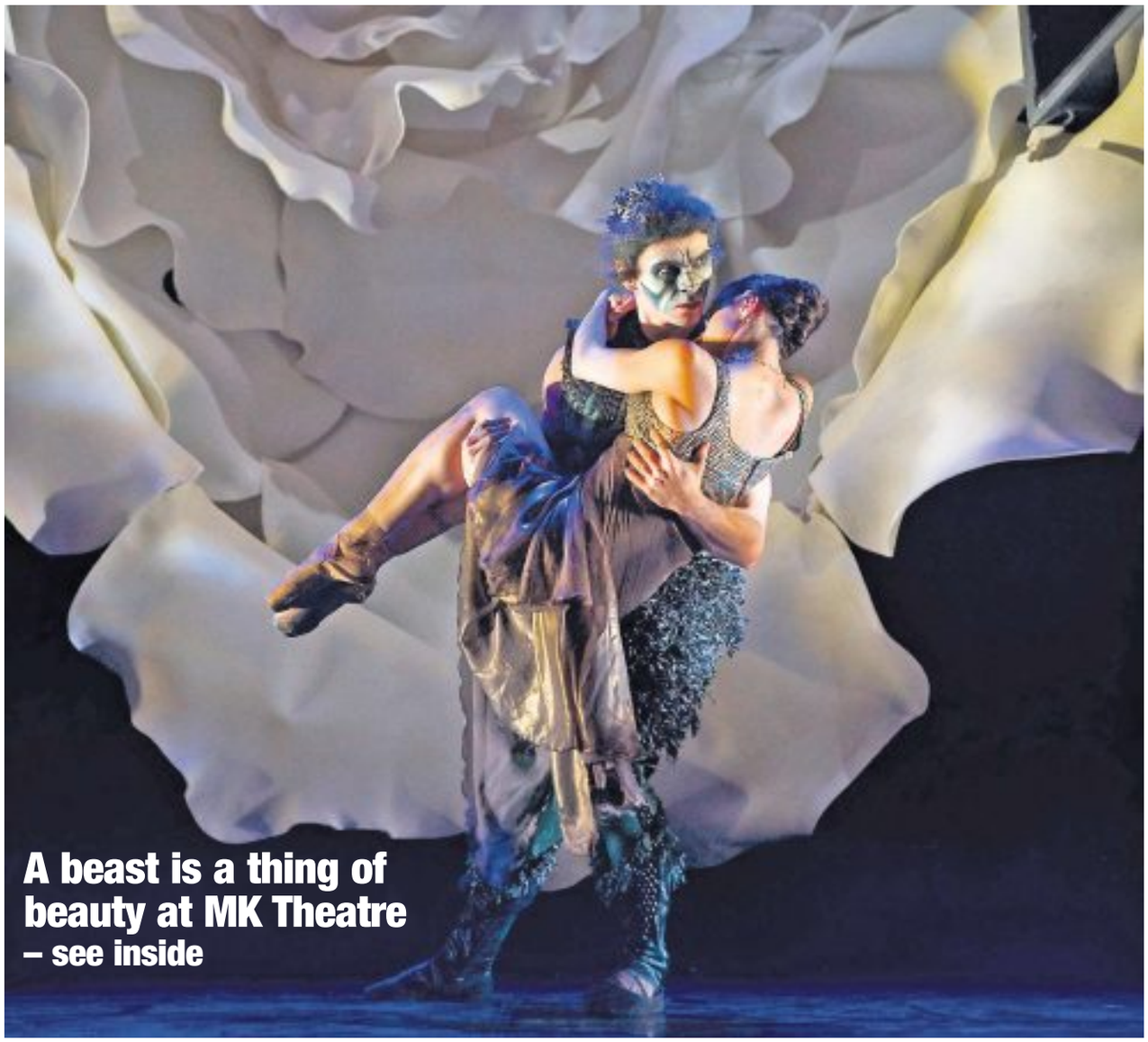

A beast is a thing of beauty at MK Theatre – see inside

INSIDE

Pop star Rihanna has traded the stage for the big screen
Page 34

PLUS

Join in with Dame Evelyn Glennie's masterclass **page 32**

A Scratch Night of live music at MK Gallery **page 33**

There's lots to enjoy in the city's parks **page 34**

Adam Bloom will be a comedy hit at Xscape **page 35**

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**

This Easter, join Alice in Wonderland find your way through the maze to a Mad Hatter's party for fantastic games, crafts, puzzles and prizes! See thecentremk.com for details.

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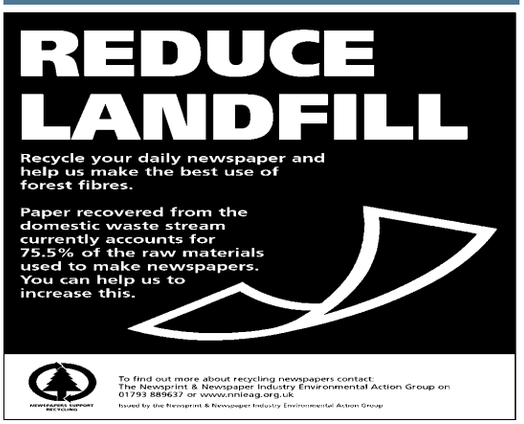


MKLIFE | MUSIC REVIEW | THE STABLES | GIGS

SIMON DARNELL

NO.1 AGAINST THE RUSH

Liars

THERE aren't many bands who are capable of surprising me now, not after all these years of writing things about songs that other people have come up with instead of me, but I don't mind admitting that Liars is definitely one such band.

Their music is, not to put too fine a point on it, barking mental.

I'm fairly sure their motto is 'If the listener knows what this song's going to do ten seconds from now, then we haven't done our job properly', which isn't a bad way to go about things.

I could listen to any number of Oasis songs and generally be hard pressed to spot where one song ends and another begins (for me, Be Here Now is just one long medley), but Liars' method of operating means that if you tried the same thing with their output, you could count ten songs and possibly find out you'd only actually heard four.

Oh yes, believe me, as far as the 'we're going to do things our way and to hell with the rules'. approach to music making goes, they've got it nailed.

What's more, it looks like their next album's going to be more of the same - well, Liars' version of 'the same' at any rate.

This is just as trancey and electronic as their previous stuff isn't, and what with them being them it's not exactly something you could dance to.

Some of the riffs are played in such a way as to suggest that they hadn't been fully practised before somebody hit the record button, but rather than sounding amateurish it actually adds a bit more heart and personality to the song.

Of course, this being a Liars number, nothing's ever straightforward and so the song takes a sudden detour into Weirdsville for the last minute or so.

The daft thing is that even this part of the proceedings is better than anything that One Direction have so far released because it's original, odd and, most importantly, hasn't been performed by One Direction.

My opinion is that the first single off of any new album should be a statement of intent, but sometimes there's that certain something about said tune that says 'You've got nothing to worry about sunshine, the rest of the album is just as good or better'.

That's what this song says to me and right now, I can well believe it.

THE STABLES — 01908 280800

MASTERCLASS WITH DAME EVELYN GLENNIE

Sunday, 1pm

THE unique skills of leading international solo percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie will take to the stage at The Stables on Sunday.

Dame Evelyn will be leading a masterclass, working with five young musicians playing a range of percussion instruments.

She will be sharing her considerable skills and talents with an audience, some of whom The Stables box office has already confirmed will be travelling hundreds of miles to attend - such is Dame Evelyn's reputation among the public and music community.

Young people from marching bands across the region and Milton Keynes Music Service have been invited to work with Dame Evelyn during the class and organisers want to welcome as many local young people, families and musicians as possible to share in the experience.

Dame Evelyn is the first person in musical history to successfully create and maintain a musical career as a solo percussionist, with her diverse collaborations including artists such as Sting, Bjork, Fred Frith, and many leading orchestras.

Prominent in lobbying successive governments to invest in music for young people, this masterclass further emphasises Dame Evelyn's commitment to encourage young people to reach their musical potential.

Supported by Arts Council England, this masterclass has been initiated by Marching Youth Music (MYM), a national organisation that supports voluntary community-based marching youth bands of all performance styles.

MYM's director Jim Vaughan said: "We are delighted to be staging this masterclass in Milton Keynes, led by such a unique and prominent artist who will be working with young musicians from our UK-wide activity and from Milton Keynes."

Dame Evelyn Glennie

Tickets are £6.50, and should be booked through the box office on 01908 280800 or boxoffice@stables.org.

CRAUFURD ARMS

Modus Vivendi

THE MODUS VIVENDI, DOOMHOOVER, MOUNTS, THE DEAD SEAS

Saturday, 7.30pm

YES they are back. The legendary post rock alternative experimental disco band, The Modus Vivendi, return for a one night only gig.

Formed in 2003 the four friends were fuelled by a passion to knock drinks out of people's hands with a brand new genre.

It may sound like a cliche, they wanted to create a sound that incorporated all of their musical influences, but one that was still unique and refreshing and they did.

Mixing spiky, discordant, raw guitars with rolling, colossal drums and thick ,aggressive, Uzeda-esque bass lines, they put together an electric live show, filled with hyper aggression.

Now Paul, Sam, Beanie and Andy have decided to join forces once more and play live again, so if you have missed them in the past grab this now or never chance. Tickets cost £5.

BLETCHLEY WMC

ROCK RESURRECTION

Saturday, 7pm

DUE to the success of Rock Apokolips in January, Wake the Nation Radio has once again set out to host a night you will never forget.

On Saturday there will be live and loud music from the newly-reborn local lads Frantic Alice, who are currently enjoying a fantastic response with their new brand of hardcore sleaze rock.

Also on the night will be Leighton Buzzard's finest rock outfit, Ego Trip, who are currently celebrating the release of their debut EP Krokodilian

The penultimate act will be Dead Cells, with their trademark tightly knit, hard hitting, mind blowing set full of songs, and to cap the whole night off, back by popular demand, is StOp, sToP, a Spanish glam rock three piece.

The night costs £5 on the door, or £4.50 if you buy online at www.wegottickets.com/wakethenation in advance.

Non-members of the working men's club are welcome.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

MKLIFE | THEATRE | GALLERY | EVENTS

MK THEATRE 0844 8717652

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Tuesday to Saturday, April 21, 7.30pm
Thursday and Saturday matinee, 2.30pm

NORTHERN Ballet performs Beauty and the Beast in this new production that premiered at Leeds Grand Theatre to critical acclaim.

Choreographed by Northern Ballet artist director David Nixon, OBE, Beauty and the Beast rediscovers the enchanting and magical aspects of this traditional fairytale, exploring the values that lie at its heart. The battle between forces of good and evil and that true love can conquer all.

It tells the story of a young prince who is transformed into a beast as a punishment for his arrogance and cursed to live alone in his castle until the spell is broken by the sacrifice of true love.

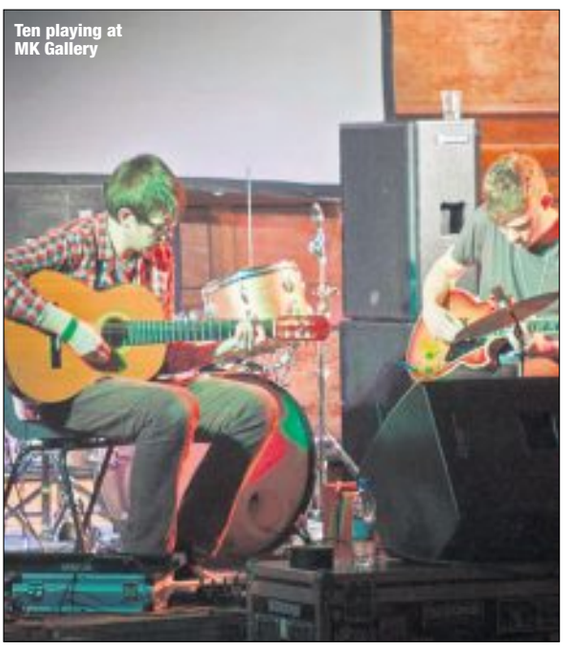
In Beauty's presence the Beast remembers the joy he once had and his willingness to sacrifice his life for her permits his final transformation back to a handsome Prince.

You will be transported into an enchanting world of colour, inhabited by fairies, goblins and sprites.

The show is accompanied by an infectious score from Saint-Säens, Bizet, Debussy and Glazunov, played live by the Northern Ballet Sinfonia. Tickets are £13-35 from 0844 8717652, or www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes.

Beauty and the Beast

MK GALLERY



Ten playing at MK Gallery

SCRATCH NIGHTS: LIVE MUSIC FROM TEN AND NOW OWL

Tomorrow, 6.45pm

TEN'S sound combines piano, acoustic and electric instruments and sparse percussion, which is then moulded around a backdrop of tape hiss, ambient field recordings, and super8 footage to create a beautiful soundscape that moves from slow, eerie and melancholic to pulsating and optimistic.

Now Owl is the solo recording project of William Edmonds. He experiments with bedroom recording, borrowed instruments and reverb and delay. Free.

MINI MAKERS: DHOL DRUMMING

Saturday, 1-3pm

PARTICIPANTS will learn the basic skills of Dhol drumming, which has its origins in India.

Then they will head over to Campbell Park to experience Ivan and Heather Morrison's Cave, a new public artwork commission, to enjoy playing these magnificent drums in the open landscape.

Suitable for children four and above. Free.

Call 01908 676900 for more information.

WOBURN EVENTS

DINING WITH ANTIQUES, FROM 1600 TO 1900

Woburn Abbey Antiques Centre, Monday, 10.30am-1.30pm

JOHN Bly describes the changes in eating and drinking habits through the formative years of Western civilisation.

John discusses wine and food related antiques, what to collect and how to use and enjoy them. Did people really eat 16 courses at dinner and why is there no such thing as a Lunch Table?

Who among us doesn't enjoy good food and drink in good company? John also explores the fascinating social development and the objects that developed and evolved over the years.

To book call 01525 290333, or e-mail antiques@woburn.co.uk. Costs £22.50 per person.

SPRING GARDEN LUNCH AND TOUR

The Sculpture Gallery, Wednesday, April 18

A TWO-COURSE lunch with coffee and a private guided tour of the Woburn Abbey Gardens.

When the sixth Duke of Bedford inherited Woburn he commissioned Humphry Repton (1752-1818), the famous landscape gardener, to create designs for enhancing the gardens and deer park.

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To book, or for further details, call the sales team on 01525 292172, or e-mail sales@woburn.co.uk. Costs £29.95 per person.

For more information about these events visit the website at www.woburn.co.uk/events.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

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Friday 20 April, 8pm
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I tried so many diets to shift the pounds – even hypnosis! My doctor prescribed slimming tablets, but they just sent my blood pressure sky-high.
I hadn't seen my cousin for a few months. We'd always been the heaviest ones in the family. When I saw her she'd lost 3 stone! I couldn't bring myself to say to her, "Well done, you look fantastic" because I was so jealous. She'd followed SureSlim plan, so the next day I signed up myself. I lost 11lbs in my first week!
I was a size 22 when I started the plan – if I could get to a size 14 I would be very happy. I'm a size 12 and I've totally exceeded my expectations. My life has completely changed and I couldn't be happier!
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FILM REVIEW

BATTLESHIP (12A)

Synopsis: A battle with aliens at sea, based on the classic game
Who's in it: Taylor Kitsch, Liam Neeson, Rihanna

THE remake of Titanic is not the only film around right now which is based on the high seas.

We now have Battleship, which is bizarrely based around the classic game which many of us will have played at some point to pass away the time on a rainy day.

Don't worry though, the film isn't simply two kids sitting around at a table blindly shouting out guesses such as B5 and F6.

This is from the makers of Transformers so what we have is a maritime sci-fi action which comes to us packed full of action.

There's also token Hollywood hard man Liam Neeson and an attacking debut for global pop superstar Rihanna, so it seems like there is plenty to get excited about.

A team led by Lt Alex Hopper (Taylor Kitsch) and Neeson's Admiral Shane head out into the middle of the Pacific Ocean where they find a vast and mysterious alien vessel.

It appears that the peculiar visitors have decided to turn the earth's seas into their own personal power generator and it's up to Hopper, Shane and friends to stop them.

The craft sets up a giant and deadly forcefield and begins a devastating bombardment of aerial attacks on various battleships, just as kids imagine happens when they are playing the game.

It's a fairly serious situation for Earth and unfortunately solving it is not as simple as packing away the game or throwing a tantrum and scattering the pieces around the room.

The action quickly spreads from the seas to the land and skies and as with the Transformers films there are a fair few spills and thrills, so much so that it's difficult to keep up with what's going on at times.

But there's also a less interesting side-plot involving Shane and Hopper's daughter Sam (Brooklyn Decker) which we could probably do without.

Overall it's a fairly simple plot that we have seen numerous times before over the years, with the plucky earthlings battling gamely against the vastly superior alien power.

Don't expect anything too groundbreaking in this regard as there is only so much writers can do with alien invasion storylines – they destroy a few things before an inevitable fightback.

This is simply a film for adrenaline junkies who like to strap themselves in to watch scene after scene of uninhibited mayhem and in that respect this ticks the boxes.

Neeson puts in a typical performance for him and Rihanna is an interesting addition, although you do keep expecting her to sing.

The only thing left to wonder is if more games might make the journey from living room floor to the big screen. How about Monopoly in 3D or Scrabble the Movie?

6/10

PARK LIFE

OUR parks are places of natural beauty and at this time of year they are overflowing with fantastic plant life, flourishing flowers and tremendous trees.

There's still time to enjoy swathes of daffodils and cheerful crocuses and blossom is starting to burst into bloom so do get out and about and appreciate nature's wonderful free display.

Bluebell spotting is a popular seasonal activity and The Parks Trust's four woodlands - Linford Wood, Howe Park Wood, Shenley Wood and Hazeley Wood - are perfect places to see the beautiful blue, white and violet varieties.

Bluebells prefer moist, shady conditions so thrive in ancient woodlands and are most commonly found in abundance in late April and early May.

Why not join the trust's rangers on the 'blue-tiful' free bluebell walk through Howe Park Wood on Saturday, April 21 from 10am and see how many you can spot?

While in Howe Park Wood you could also look out for hornbeams, deciduous trees that are known for having extremely hard timber and also for attracting many different species of birds, who feast on the nuts that sprout from the branches.

The wood is also home to two very fine crab apple trees, one of which is reportedly the second oldest in the country and a grand old oak tree.

Other woodland flowers you'll see blooming in spring and early summer are wood anemones, celandines and primroses.

Early purple orchids will also be flowering from now until June. These lovely and rather rare plants, displaying up to 50 deep purple flowers, are particularly prevalent in Linford Wood.

There is actually an orchid trail at Linford Wood where, on a gentle stroll, you might be lucky enough to see the early purple orchid along with the greater butterfly orchid, herb paris and broad leaved helleborine.

For more information on trees, plants and flowers in the parks of Milton Keynes visit the website at www.theparkstrust.com.

WYEVALE GARDEN CENTRE

IT'S time for gardeners to spring into action to get the most from their plots this spring and Wyevale Garden Centre is offering keen and amateur gardeners free tips and advice during its Spring Gardening Celebration from Saturday.

Dominic Wright, manager of the garden centre in Newport Road, Woburn Sands, said: "During our Spring Gardening Celebration, which coincides with the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) National Gardening Week, staff will be on-hand to give complimentary advice on looking after their gardens this spring.

"Experts will also be available on selected days during the fortnight to host talks on herbaceous borders."

Also during the Spring Gardening Celebration, which runs from Saturday until April 29, children will be able to collect free cress seeds, while stocks last, to take home and grow.

They can also pick up a free activity sheet on how to grow cress in all varieties of containers.

For further information, call

Wyevale Woburn Sands Garden Centre on 01908 281161, or visit www.woburnsandsgardencentre.co.uk.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

MKLIFE | WHAT'S ON | COMEDY

DAILY LIFE

TOMORROW

PETANQUE (Boule) in Bancroft Park, 2pm. New players welcome. For more details call 01908 319663 (Bancroft Park Petanque Club). Also on Tuesdays at 2pm and Sundays at 11am.

FRIDAY

NEED some chill out time after a busy week? Yoga relaxation and stretch at St Michael's Church, OU Campus, 6-7.30pm. For more information call 01908 218915 or e-mail hypnomk@googlemail.com.

BUNTING making, Wolverton Library. Take part in The Parks Trust's attempt to break the world record for the longest line of bunting. The theme is Commonwealth countries. Suitable for older children, accompanied by an adult. Free, no tickets required, 11am to noon. More details at wolverton.library@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

THE 13th, unlucky for some, maybe, if you arrive late, as the last two Performers Nights at The Song Loft, Stony Stratford, have had full houses. The evenings have thrown up very talented people. Are you one? Go on, give it a try, starts 8.15pm.

SATURDAY

A CHORAL Day, St Mary and St Giles Church, Stony Stratford, 11am, with Choral Evensong at 4pm.

BRADWELL Silver Band annual spring concert, St James' Church, New Bradwell. The band will be performing music ranging from The William Tell Overture to Lady Gaga's Pokerface, 7.30pm, tickets available on the door for £6 and £5.

VIENNA Mozart trio. Violinist Daniel Auner with his parents, pianist Irina and cellist

Tell MK NEWS readers about YOUR event

Send details to andy.handley@mk-news.co.uk, or call 01908 689586, at least two weeks before the event

Diethard. Works by Mozart, Schubert, including the sumptuous Notturno and the dramatic and impassioned Trio No 2 by Shostakovich. Leighton Buzzard Theatre, tickets £13, friends £11.50, students and children £5. Call the box office on 0300 300 8125.

OXLEY Park Community Centre, table top sale. Selling both new and good quality second hand items, 2-4pm. Sellers £6 per table, free entrance. Contact georgie.menzies@hotmail.co.uk.

SUPPORT three good causes at the same time at York House, Stony Stratford. Stony in Bloom plant sale, contributions welcome, contact Mary Sarre on 01908 563479, or bring them on the day. Seedy-Swap. Swap (or make a small donation to get) plant seeds, including organic, rare and heritage varieties. Family tea and coffee morning and children's activities, 9.30am-2.30pm.

SUNDAY

MK RAMBLERS take on a ten-mile circular from Gawcott near Buckingham. Meet at 10am at the church in Church Street, Gawcott (GR SP680318). Refreshments as required. No dogs please. Call 07749 886300.

MONDAY

QUIZ night, The Barge Inn, Woolstones. This Monday night charity quiz is getting more popular by the week. Pit you wits against the other teams and help raise money for Willen Hospice at the same time. Starts 9pm, £1 per person, teams welcome.

EVENING of Pure Indulgence at The Living Room, The Hub. An evening of pampering and spiritual readings. Arcana Salon will be offering complimentary skin scanning and GHD up dos as well as half hour treatments such as back massage, Indian head massage, reflexology, hand and arm massage and mini mani, including nail painting, for just £10. Half hour spiritual readings £10, pre-booking recommended, contact Heidi Seidler on 01908 827299.

TUESDAY

JOIN The Parks Trust for Push n Tone. Enjoy the pleasure of Howe Park Wood while getting some exercise with a buggy push. Meet 10am, car park off H7 Chaffron Way (opposite Westcroft Centre). Costs £2.50 per person.

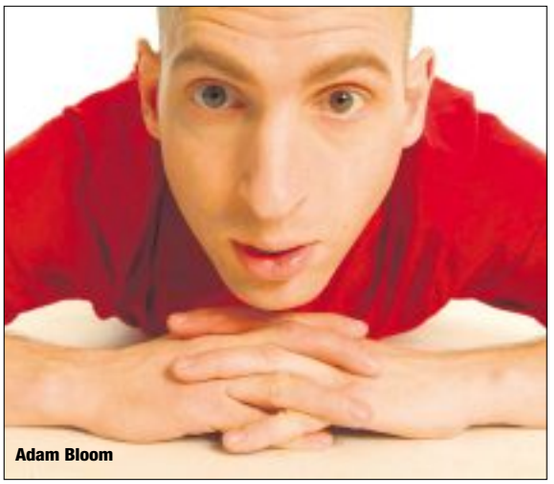
WEDNESDAY

OPEN film society. Gainsbourg. A must for any francophile or fan of Serge Gainsbourg. Track the path that led from his Jewish childhood during the occupation to his role as a provocative and self-destructive singer-composer. Showing at the Old Lecture Theatre, OU, 7pm. More details at www.openfilm society.co.uk.

YOGA meditation, chanting and relaxation at Portfields Community Centre, Newport Pagnell, 8-9pm. For more details call 01908 218915 or e-mail hypnomk@googlemail.com.

WOLVERTON and District Archaeological and Historical Society will be holding its final talk of the season. Neil Rees will speak about Miss Bangay and the Women's Messengers. St Mary and St Giles School, King George Crescent, Stony Stratford, at 7.30pm. More details from 01908 565481.

LIVE COMEDY AT XSCAPE



Adam Bloom

IT'S COMEDY: ADAM BLOOM

Thursday, 7pm

ONE of Britain's most inventive comedians and comedy writers hits Milton Keynes comedy scene this week.

The Perrier Award nominee and Polygram Award winner for best stand-up at the Edinburgh Festival is one of the most sought-after acts in the country and undoubtedly one of Britain's sharpest comic brains.

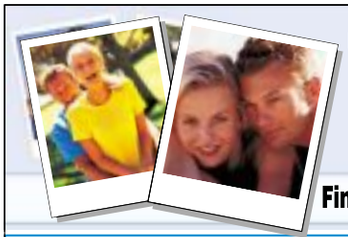
He has performed sell-out solo shows at numerous Edinburgh Festivals, performed a 29 date sell-out tour of Britain, sold out theatres in Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Wellington and Cape Town as well as making three visits to Just For Laughs in Montreal.

In 2004, he was part of the Just For Laughs Comedy Tour, performing to 42,000 people across Canada.

He has also written three series of 'The Problem with Adam Bloom' for BBC Radio 4 and has been commissioned to provide material for more than 20 comedians.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £10 at www.ents24.com.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**



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IF YOU'RE looking to meet or chat to someone, look no further. Text **MATCH262** to **65125 or call 0906 635 0510. (T&C'S BELOW)**

single women

SARAH 36, young looking, single mum, own home, seeks male to look after for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383959**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, stays at home too much and looking for causal fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 385377**

JEAN young 66, outgoing, enjoy life, genuine, likes walks, looking for genuine male, 60-68 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386349**

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387107**

46YR old female looking to be spoilt by an attractive young male, 46-48. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390368**

ATTRACTIVE female, N/S, WLTM male to enjoy life with, possible LTR, 45-54. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387835**

VICKY attractive, black, likes cooking, seeks male, 50-62 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387843**

ATTRACTIVE black female, professional, late 40's, new to Luton, looking for friendship and companion to go to theatre, restaurants, dancing and long walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 389898**

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383111**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388559**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 385373**

ANNE early 60's, active, professional, 5ft 7ins, seeks spiritual type male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 379231**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 387103**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386303**

FEMALE mid 60's, GSOH, enjoys life, walks, meals out, seeks genuine, tall male, mid 60's **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388349**

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388145**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388137**

TRIXI looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388135**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 383159**

62YR old female, curvy, blonde, semi retired, likes shopping, reading, socialising, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390432**

SENSUAL discreet, mature, blonde lady, seeks discreet, mature gent for fun, friendship chats and text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 378865**

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 382227**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386305**

JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional, OHAC, WLTM male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 379007**

WIDOW 62, shy, easygoing, seeks honest, genuine, caring gent for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 378043**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 381727**

AFRO Caribbean lady, 32, likes nights out, cinema, seeks Josh Holloway lookalike male, 28-39 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 381187**

single men

LOOKING to **MEET** or CHAT to someone, look no further. Text **MATCH262** to **65125 (T&C'S BELOW)**

SIMON 45, likes pubs, clubs, meals out, swimming, seaside, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388723**

TONY seeking gorgeous female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390526**

WHITE male, short hair, clean shaven, sporty, seeks female, 35-45, down to earth for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388623**

MALE likes cinema, meals out, walks, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388621**

STEVE attractive 5ft 8ins, black hair, brown eyes, polo player, artist, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388729**

51YR old male, GSOH, WLTM female for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388181**

MALE 49, loves countryside, WLTM female, 30 plus, size 14 plus, black/white, no ties for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388357**

GENTLEMAN 62, believes in disciplined approach to life, seeks curvy, non assertive lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388223**

ATTRACTIVE male, 43, passionate, sporty, likeable, caring, sociable, seeks attractive lady, 30-48 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 381933**

ITALIAN male mid 40's, romantic, good looking, successful, charming, seeks attractive female for fun and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390384**

42YR old male, down to earth, GSOH, easygoing, affectionate, likes meals out, walks, countryside, nights in, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 388065**

SIMON 32, 6ft 2ins, brown hair, slim, good looking, easygoing, likes nights out and fun, seeks similar aged female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 390140**

MALE with GSOH, 39, dark brown hair, slim-medium build, seeks mixed race female, 20-40 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3674 Box No: 386617**

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Willen Park

WILSON Peacock is pleased to offer for sale this six-bedroom, executive detached property set at the end of a cul-de-sac in the highly sought-after area of Willen Park.

The property has a private gated entrance, which leads to a block paved area that provides off-road parking for approximately 12 vehicles and a double garage.

The accommodation boasts a wealth of fantastic living space for all and comprises an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, study, kitchen, utility, cloakroom and lobby area.

There are also two further rooms and a bathroom.

Upstairs the master bedroom has an en-suite with dressing room and the second bedroom also has an en-suite.

There are four further bedrooms and a family bathroom, as well as a shower room. The property currently requires some updating, offering great potential with vacant possession.

Willen Park is situated within close proximity to the picturesque Willen Lake and Campbell Park which provide relaxing retreats, so if you are into walking, jogging or cycling then this is the perfect place to be.

Locally there are nice places to eat and drink with restaurants and pubs close by.

There is also good access to central Milton Keynes, which is ideal for shopping with thecentre:mk, and Xscape, which provides a range of leisure facilities to cater for all the family.

There is also good access to major roads and central Milton Keynes mainline train station.

For further details on this property, which is on the market for £455,000, call 01908 606951, or visit the offices in Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes.

Alternatively, visit www.countrywideplc.co.uk for more information.

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- Off Road Parking
- No Upper Chain

Call: 01908 678151

Monkston **£145,000**

- Apartment
- Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Four piece Bathroom
- Allocated parking
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 678151

Fishermead **£55,000**

- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Study
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens

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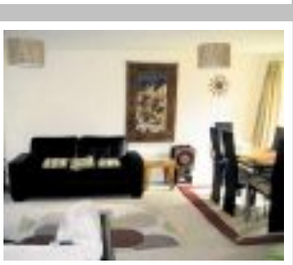
Bradwell **£250,000**

- Improved and extended
- Four Bed Semi-detached
- Three Receptions
- Study
- Re-fitted Ensuite & Cloakroom
- Driveway & Gardens

Call: 01908 678151



Broughton **£224,500**

- Spacious
- Three Bedroom
- Link-detached
- Cloakroom
- Ensuite to Master
- Double Car Port

Call: 01908 678151

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TAYLORS
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Central Milton Keynes Sales & Lettings
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Downs Barn

- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Dining Room/Study
- Conservatory
- Ensuite to Master

£230,000

Call us on 01908 678151 for further details

Emerson Valley

- Much improved
- Three Bed Detached
- Cul-de-sac location
- Three Receptions
- Ensuite to Master
- Gardens & Driveway

£242,500

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Estate Agents

Westcroft Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 524456**

Kingston Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 585552**

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Shenley Brook End **£275,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Overlooking a meadow
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Separate Receptions
- Ensuite to Master
- Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 524456

Tattenhoe **£310,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Overlooking Park Land
- Separate Reception rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast & Utility
- Ensuite to Master
- Driveway & enclosed rear Garden

Call: 01908 524456

Middleton **£225,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Ensuite to Master
- Driveway & Garage
- Potential to extend (stpp)

Call: 01908 585552

Middleton **£270,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Detached
- Ensuite to Master
- Conservatory
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Rear Garden

Call: 01908 585552

Tattenhoe **£399,995**
- Open views over 'Linear Park'
- Four Bed Detached
- Re-fitted Ensuite
- Study & Utility room
- Landscaped rear Garden
- Double Garage

Call: 01908 524456

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Broughton **£80,000**
- 50% shared ownership
- No upper chain
- Spacious two Bed Apartment
- Separate Kitchen
- Garage
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 585552

Tattenhoe **OIEO £200,000**
- Three Bed Semi-detached
- No upper chain
- Cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Driveway & Garage
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 524456

Wavendon Gate **Guide £285,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Three Reception rooms
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Ensuite to Master
- Garage & Driveway
- Enclosed rear Garden

Call: 01908 585552

Shenley Brook End **£285,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Separate Receptions
- Conservatory
- Ensuite to Master
- Integral Garage & Driveway
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 524456

Crownhill **Guide £175,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Corner plot
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 524456

Middleton **£190,000**
- Popular location
- Two double Bedroom
- Detached Bungalow
- Conservatory
- Rear Garden
- Off road parking & Garage

Call: 01908 585552

Middleton **£380,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Generous rear Garden
- Three Reception rooms
- Ensuite to Master
- Detached double Garage
- Excellent School catchment

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Wolverton Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 312623**
Stony Stratford Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 563825**

Scan using your Smartphone to view all our properties

"I would like to take a moment to thank Ben and Gaston from Taylors Estate Agents Wolverton, for their help in purchasing my first property. From the time of making arrangements for initial viewings of various properties that fit my preferences, to the final exchange of offer, both of them have been of tremendous support. Understanding my heavy travel schedule and my location, they have kept me in the communication loop throughout the process so my mind is at rest. I would strongly reccommend both Ben and Gaston to any of my friends who are interested in buying a property in Milton Keynes. Thanks very much for your support once again. Regards, S Rajan.

Deanshanger **£215,000**
- Improved & extended
- Recently modernised
- Four Bed Semi-detached
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Double length Garage
- Generous rear Garden

Call: 01908 563825

New Bradwell **Guide £175,175**
- Four Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Ensuite to Master
- Double glazing
- No upper chain
- Converted Garage

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Stony Stratford **£169,995**
- Two Bedroom
- Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Separate Kitchen
- Garage
- Off road parking

Call: 01908 563825

Blue Bridge **£170,000**
- Three Bed Semi-detached
- Re-fitted downstairs Cloakroom
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Great links to A5
- Conservatory
- Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 312623

Deanshanger **£225,000**
- Rare opportunity
- Three Bed Detached
- In the process of renovation
- Garage
- Off road parking
- No upper chain

Call: 01908 563825

Wolverton **£185,000**
- Three Bedrooms
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Kitchen/Diner
- Ensuite to Master
- Enclosed rear Garden
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 312623

Haversham **Guide £184,950**
- Three Bed Semi-detached
- No upper chain
- Unfinished extensions
- Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Rear Garden
- Off road parking

Call: 01908 312623

Stony Stratford **OIRO £230,000**
- Extremely well presented
- Three/Four Bedroom
- Chalet style Bungalow
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double length Garage & Driveway

Call: 01908 563825

Potterspury **Offers Over £150,000**
- Two Bed Bungalow
- Re-fitted Shower room
- Conservatory
- Utility room
- Front & rear Gardens
- Popular Village location

Call: 01908 563825

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TAYLORS Estate Agents

Newport Pagnell Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 611966**

Olney Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01234 713333**

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Giffard Park

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £250,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Call: 01908 611966

Sherington **O. I.E.O £350,000**

- Three Bed Character Cottage
- Grade II Listed
- Detached
- Kitchen/Diner
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Call: 01234 713333

Newport Pagnell **£155,000**

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Green Park Location
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Garden

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Olney **£210,000**

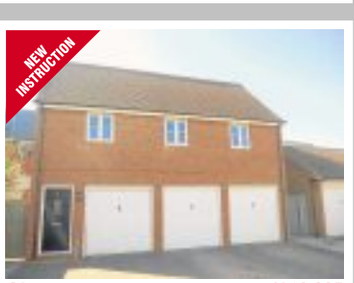
- Extended Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- No Upper Chain
- Study & Shower Room
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

Call: 01234 713333

Newport Pagnell **£275,000**

- Four Bed Detached
- Detached Double Garage
- Utility & Cloakroom
- 22ft Lounge/Diner
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden

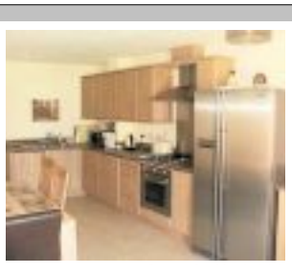
Call: 01908 611966



Olney **£169,995**

- One Bed Coach House
- Short Walk to the River
- No Upper Chain
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Rear Garden

Call: 01234 713333



Redhouse Park **O.I.E.O £210,000**

- 20' x 14' Kitchen/Diner/Family Room
- Separate Lounge
- Master Bedroom With En Suite
- Off Road Parking For Two Cars
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Next To Lakes

Call: 01908 611966

Wollaston **£585,000**

- Four Bed Detached
- Village Location
- Stunning Views
- Two Ensuites
- Wrap Around Garden
- No Upper Chain

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Bletchley **£199,950**
- Three Bedroom
- Detached
- Double glazing
- Separate Reception rooms
- Garage
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£345,000**
- Executive & extended
- Four Bed Detached
- Study & Utility room
- Extended Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Ensuite to Master
- Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£65,000**
- Two double Bedroom
- Upper floor
- Flat
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- No upper chain

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£98,000**
- Three Bedroom
- End of Terrace
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & rear Gardens
- No upper chain

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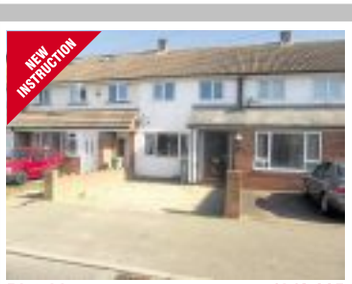
Milton Keynes **£189,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Penthouse Apartment
- Overlooking the Canal
- Balcony
- Ensuite to Master
- Allocated parking

Call: 01908 370861



Bletchley **£142,995**
- Three/Four Bedroom
- Terraced
- Double glazing
- Off road parking
- Lounge/Diner
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£220,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Detached
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Ensuite to Master
- Garage & off road parking
- Enclosed rear Garden

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£245,000**
- Well presented & extended
- Three Bedrooms
- Separate Reception rooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom & Shower room
- Gardens & Garage

Call: 01908 370861

Windmill Hill **OIEO £280,000**
- Four Bedroom
- Detached
- Separate Receptions
- Ensuite to Master
- Double Garage
- No upper chain

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **OIEO £135,000**
- Three double Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Character Property
- Separate Reception rooms
- Front & rear Gardens
- Highly sought after location

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£139,000**
- Two Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Cul-de-sac location
- Double glazing
- Newly fitted heating
- Parking & Garden

Call: 01908 370861

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TAYLORS New Homes

VILLAGE NEW HOME £176,950

- 3 Bedroom cottage style home
- Spacious open plan living/dining room
- South facing garden
- Double parking to the front
- Village offers a range of amenities and good connections to
- Olney, MK, Bedford, Northampton and Wellingborough

Call: 01908 677227

FLEXIBLE LIVING £280,449

- Five bedroom semi detached new home
- Downstairs could be used as a granny flat
- Study and en-suite to master bedroom
- Garage with parking
- Ideally located in East Milton Keynes
- Excellent access to the M1 and good schooling

Call: 01908 677227

SET ON RIVERSIDE £224,995

- 3/4 Bedroom spacious new home
- Separate dining room and utility
- 22ft max living room, ensuite to master bedroom
- Under croft carport for parking
- Set on a riverside development on the fringe of the city
- Ideally located just off the A5 trunk road

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FAMILY HOME IN VILLAGE £275,000

- 4 bedroom detached new home
- Fantastic kitchen/family room with bay onto garden
- Spacious lounge with double doors out to garden
- Set in popular village with range of amenities
- Access to Olney, MK, Bedford, Northampton and
- Wellingborough

Call: 01908 677227

FLEXIBLE LIVING £225,000

- 3 Storey new terrace home
- Open plan 20' kitchen/dining area
- Large separate living room
- Master bedroom includes ensuite and fitted wardrobes
- Two further doubles bedrooms
- Great location near a lake and nature reserve

Call: 01908 677227

STUNNING 4 BED £259,950

- 4 Bedroom semi detached new home
- Separate kitchen with quality integrated appliances
- Spacious living/dining room with doors onto garden
- Study and top floor dedicated to master suite
- Situated on adjoining popular Walton Park and Walnut Tree
- Allocated parking plus great access to M1

Call: 01908 677227

VERSATILE NEW HOME £239,995

- 4 Bedroom, versatile new home
- Bedrooms on ground and top floor with en-suites
- Spacious living room
- Juliet balcony
- Flooring and landscaping included
- Excellent access to M1, Kingston Centre, and popular schools

Call: 01908 677227

VILLAGE LOCATION £522,000

- Five bedroom, 2 ensuite, barn style executive new home
- Patio doors from the kitchen and lounge
- Designed around the garden
- Detached garage
- Near Salcey forest with quick access to Olney, MK, and
- Northampton

Call: 01908 677227

OPEN PLAN LIVING £225,000

- 3 bedroom end terrace new home
- Good size open plan kitchen/dining/living area
- Downstairs also includes an entrance hall, WC and cloakroom
- Large master bedroom
- 2 Parking spaces
- Great location close to a lake and nature reserve

Call: 01908 677227

A ROOM WITH A VIEW £450,000

- Unique 3 bedroom, 3 en-suite stone property
- Numerous windows to admire the views
- Versitile lay out and fantastic open plan eating, cookery, family
- room
- Garden and gated driveway for up to four cars
- Set in popular Yardley Gobion village just outside Stony Stratford

Call: 01908 677227

SPACIOUS 2 BED APARTMENT £149,995

- 2 Double bedroom new apartment
- Open plan kitchen/living area
- En-suite to master bedroom
- Situated on the east of MK
- Good links to the M1 Kingston centre
- VIEWABLE NOW! MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

Call: 01908 677227

TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS £148,500

- An enclosed terrace
- Intergrated kitchen appliances
- Great specification throughout
- Allocated parking spaces
- Walking distance to Bletchley train station
- Years free membership to a leisure centre for purchasers

Call: 01908 677227

LAST ONE REMAINING! £439,950

- 5 double bedroom detached new home
- Highest specification with integrated kitchen appliances
- Over 2040 sq ft of luxury accommodation
- Flooring included throughout
- Garage with parking
- Great access to Newport Pagnell and Wolverton

Call: 01908 677227

VERSITILE NEW HOME £315,000

- 5 Fantastic bedrooms, 2 with en-suites
- Open plan kitchen/ breakfast room onto the garden
- Boasting feature box windows
- Garage with double parking
- Situated in East Milton Keynes
- Excellent access to the M1

Call: 01908 677227

CANALSIDE APARTMENT £166,995

- 2 Double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- 18ft lounge
- Spacious and modern new build
- Carpets, Fridge/Freezer and washing machine
- Allocated parking space
- Short walk to Willen Lake

Call: 01908 677227

VILLAGE LOCATION! £229,950

- 3 Bedroom semi detached new home
- Choice of kitchen units
- Versatile and open plan downstairs
- 17' Master suite with en-suite and double shower
- Situated in Newton Leys overlooking a brook
- Close to Bletchley station

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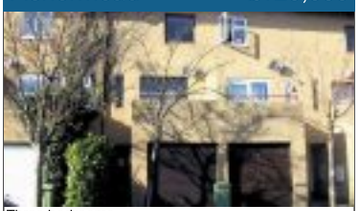
Willen £455,000

Six Bedrooms
No upper chain
Large Driveway
Three Ensuites
Conservatory
Four Receptions

Fishermead £120,000



Three bedrooms
Kitchen
Lounge/diner
Shower room
Rear garden

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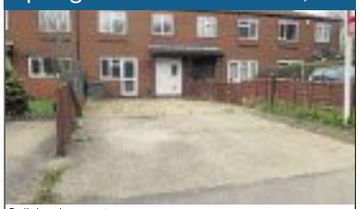
Springfield £137,500



Split level property
Four bedrooms
Lounge
Kitchen
Downstairs cloakroom
Rear garden

Fishermead £55,000

One bedroom flat
Lounge
Kitchen
Study
Double glazing
Communal garden

Leadenhall OIEO £52,500

50% shared ownership
No premium
First floor apartment
Open Plan Living Area
Two bedrooms
Off road parking

Bletchley £250,000

Extended detached family home
Four bedrooms
Conservatory
Lounge/diner
En suite
Garage and gardens

Bradwell Common £200,000

Well Presented
Three Bedroom
Link Detached Home
Double Glazing
Gas Radiator Heating
Garage and Gardens

Bradville £155,000

Semi detached
Three bedrooms
Lounge
Kitchen/diner
Garden
Utility/w.c

Haversham £199,950

Three Bedroom
Semi-detached
Popular Village location
Downstairs Cloakroom
Driveway & Garage
Rear Garden

Bletchley £135,000

Over 60's Apartment
One Bedroom
Communal Gardens
Off Road Parking
Viewing Recommended
Guest Suite Available

Monkston OIEO £295,000

Four Bedrooms
Detached Family Home
Fitted Kitchen & Utility
Ensuite to Master
Driveway & Garage
Enclosed rear Garden

Milton Keynes £125,000

Ground floor flat
Two bedrooms
Lounge/diner
Kitchen
Bathroom
Off road parking

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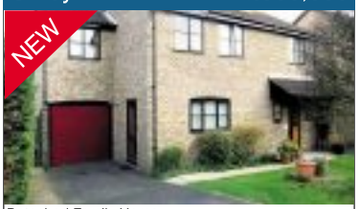
Olney £300,000



Detached Family Home
Four/Five Bedroom
Ensuite to Master
Conservatory
Garage. Off Road Parking
Call 01234 711481

Bozeat OIEO £220,000

Link detached family home
Three double bedrooms
Kitchen/breakfast room
En suite
Single garage and gardens
Call 01234 711481

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Silver Street £180,000

NO CHAIN
Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
Refitted Kitchen
Off Road Parking
Refurbished Throughout
Call 01908 611388

Haversham Guide Price £235,000

NO CHAIN
Four Bedroom Semi Detached
Dining Room. Lounge
Kitchen
Front & Rear Garden
Call 01908 61388

Olney £120,000

Cluster home
Lounge
Kitchen

Bedroom
No upper chain
Call 01234 711481

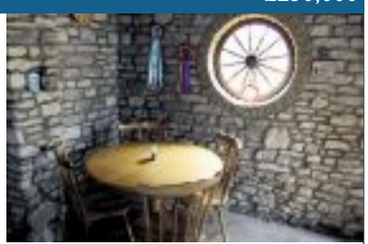
Broughton £200,000

Semi detached home
Three bedrooms
En suite to master
Separate reception rooms
Downstairs cloakroom
Gardens and parking

Redhouse Park £300,000

Four Bed Detached
Double Garage
Study,Cloakroom
En suite to Master
Front & Rear Gardens
Call 01908 611388

Bozeat £230,000



Stone built semi detached
Character features
Three bedrooms

Separate reception rooms
Three outbuildings
Call 01234 711481

Gifford Park £230,000

Three Bedroom
Link-detached
Downstairs Cloakroom
Conservatory
Driveway & Garage
Gardens

Newport Pagnell O.I.E.O £325,000

Four Bedroom Detached Property
Popular Cul-De-Sac Location
Conservatory
En Suite To Master
Double Garage
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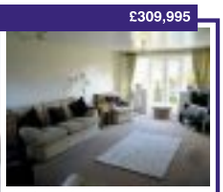
MEDBOURNE £84,950

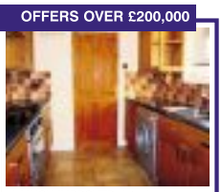
A VACANT one bedroom top floor flat benefiting from double glazing and gas radiator central heating. It is located close to shops and just 5 minutes drive from CMK.

OLD STRATFORD - MUST BE VIEWED!! £309,995



A detached family home comprising cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, four bedrooms, TWO EN SUITES, bathroom, double garage and gardens.

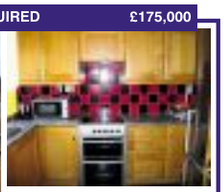
NEWPORT PAGNELL OFFERS OVER £200,000



A MUCH IMPROVED detached bungalow comprising REFITTED KITCHEN, lounge, three bedrooms, REFITTED BATHROOM, single garage and low maintenance gardens.

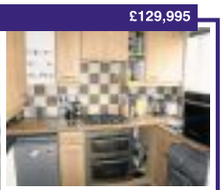
Ryan Daniel
ESTATE AGENTS

NEATH HILL - VACANT, QUICK SALE REQUIRED £175,000



A THREE BEDROOM link detached home located in a CUL DE SAC close to shops and schools with the POTENTIAL TO EXTEND the property subject to the necessary planning permission.

BROUGHTON £129,995

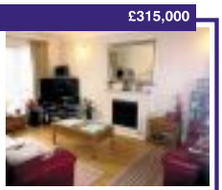


A rarely available TWO BEDROOM "coach house" style apartment. An ideal first time or investment buy that MUST BE VIEWED!! Service charge only £40 per month!!

DOWNS BARN REDUCED TO £84,500

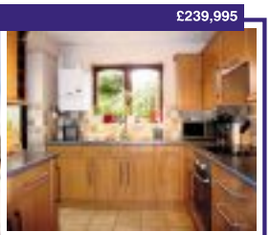
ATTENTION INVESTORS!!! A first floor flat located within walking distance of the shopping centre with a tenant already in place who currently pays £575 per month.

FOUR BED DETACHED IN FURZTON £315,000



A detached family home with cloakroom, REFITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM, conservatory/utility room, study, lounge, dining room, EN SUITE, REFITTED BATHROOM, garage and gardens.

BARLEYHURST PARK - MUST BE VIEWED £239,995



Located in a cul de sac is this well presented detached family home benefiting from sealed unit double glazing and gas radiator central heating. The accommodation comprises entrance hall, REFITTED CLOAKROOM, dual aspect lounge/diner, REFITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES, utility area, FOUR BEDROOMS and a REFITTED BATHROOM. Outside there are gardens to the front and rear, a driveway providing off road parking and a single garage.

CUL DE SAC LOCATION IN WALNUT TREE £154,995

A VERY WELL PRESENTED semi-detached property benefiting from replacement PVCu double glazing and gas radiator central heating. The accommodation comprises entrance hall, REFITTED KITCHEN, lounge, TWO BEDROOMS and a bathroom. Outside there are gardens, a driveway and a single garage. Walnut Tree is located in the Sout Eastern corner of Milton Keynes and offers a range of shops and schooling and easy access to both the A5 and M1.

FISHERMEAD £119,995

A VACANT three storey townhouse offering good sized accommodation throughout comprising kitchen/diner, three/four bedrooms, lounge, bathroom and gardens.

WILLEN - SUPERB LOCATION £114,995

A one bedroom house offered for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The property comprises lounge, kitchen/diner with oven and hob, double bedroom, bathroom enclosed garden and parking. Willen is situated towards the Eastern flank of Milton Keynes and is generally considered as a pleasant residential area. The Grand Union Canal and Willen Lake are just a short walk away and junction 14 of the M1, leisure and shopping facilities are all within easy reach by car.

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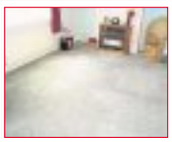
WOLVERTON £144,995



- 3 bedrooms
- Semi detached house
- UPVC double glazing
- Separate reception rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Gas to radiator heating
- Larger than average rear garden
- No upper chain

HANSLOPE £150,000

- 2 bedrooms
- Semi detached bungalow
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- UPVC double glazing
- Gas to radiator heating
- Driveway providing off road parking
- Single garage
- Front & rear gardens

WOLVERTON £160,000

- 3 bedrooms
- 1930's semi detached
- Separate reception rooms
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Utility room
- Part double glazing
- Gas to radiator heating
- Southerly facing rear gardens

WOLVERTON £150,000

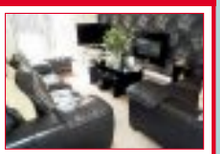
- 3 double bedrooms
- Two separate reception rooms
- Downstairs bathroom
- Separate w.c.
- Gas to radiator heating
- Replacement combination boiler
- Front & rear gardens
- Single garage

WOLVERTON £138,000

- 3 bedrooms
- Mid terraced house
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- UPVC double glazed windows (w.s.)
- Gas to radiator heating
- Single garage to the rear

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

WOLVERTON MILL £220,000



- 4 bedrooms
- Link detached house
- En-suite to master bedroom
- Sealed unit double glazed windows
- Kitchen with integrated appliances
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Partly converted garage
- Off road parking

BRADVILLE £155,000

- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Re-fitted kitchen/diner
- UPVC double glazing
- Gas to radiator heating
- Enclosed rear garden backing onto the Green
- Single garage
- Off road parking

WOLVERTON £165,000

- 3 bedroom
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Lounge through dining room
- Upstairs shower room
- Downstairs bathroom
- Gas to radiator heating
- Front & rear gardens
- Off road parking

GREAT HOLM £290,000

- 3 bedrooms
- Extended detached house
- Re-fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- En-suite to master bedroom
- UPVC double glazing
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Situated on a corner plot
- Gas to radiator heating
- Off road parking & garage

PEARTREE BRIDGE £600 pcm

- 2 bedrooms
- First floor apartment
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Re-fitted bathroom
- White goods
- Off road parking
- Available 22nd April
- No DSS

CMK £83,000

- Second floor studio flat
- UPVC double glazing
- Laminate flooring
- Separate kitchen
- Shower room
- Residents parking
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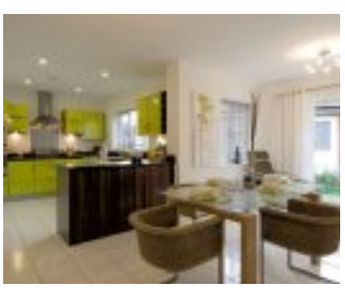

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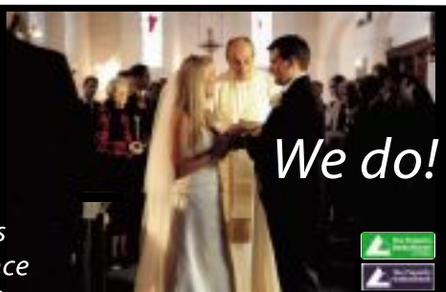

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■ Refitted bathroom ■ Off road parking ■ Gardens

Great Holm £725 PCM PF

New

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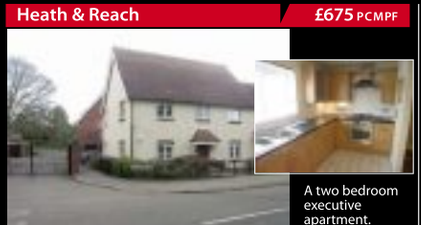

A two bedroom executive apartment.

■ Hall ■ Kitchen ■ Sitting/Dining room ■ Bathroom
■ Two double bedrooms ■ Communal gardens ■ Gated parking

Loughton £850 PCM PF

New

Walk to the station

A modern three bedroom house.

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■ Kitchen /diner ■ Block paved drive
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Newport Pagnell £725 PCM FF

New

Executive one bedroom ground floor apartment.

■ Sitting /dining room
■ Kitchen ■ Bathroom ■ Gardens ■ Parking

Walnut Tree £695PCM PF

New

A spacious two double bedroom house.

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■ Bathroom ■ Driveway parking

Broughton £750PCM PF

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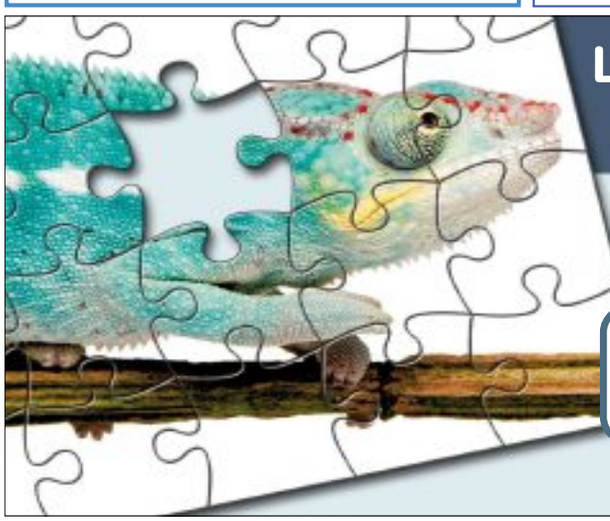

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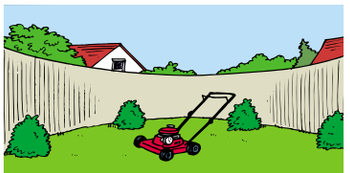

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MKPUBLIC NOTICES

Milton Keynes Council

The following applications may be inspected at the Planning, Economy and Development Department, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes. Representations, if any, to be submitted in writing to the above address within 21 days of the publication of this notice.

SECTION 73	WITHIN A CONSERVATION AREA
12/00717/FUL	Installation of feature fence and replacement of 8 trolley bays at Tesco, Stratford Road, Wolverton.

NICK FENWICK
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PLANNING, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

MILTON KEYNES PARTNERSHIP
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
MAJOR

12/00694/MKPCR Section 73 application to vary Condition 1 of reserved matters consent 11/01827/MKPCR relating to Phase 1B Brooklands (Parcels 7, 17 and 30) for minor material amendment to change highway layout to Parcel 30, move garage to Plot 260 forward, change design, storey height and footprint of House Type 15 and changes in materials, openings and internal layouts to House Types 1, 4, 6 and 14 at Land at Brooklands, To North East of A5130 and East of Brooklands Farm, Eastern Expansion Area, Milton Keynes.

SHEILA KEENE
HEAD OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND PLANNING, HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY

DESIGNATION OF STREETS IN WHICH TRADING IS PROHIBITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 21st March 2012 the Milton Keynes Council passed a resolution to prohibit street trading under paragraph 2(1) (a) of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

All streets listed below including all roads, footways, forecourts or other area adjacent to the streets referred to in this resolution for a distance of 60 metres from the centre line of each street and shown on a map identification purposes only, which can be examined at Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ. The effective date will be 20th May 2012.

Broughton

Bewdley Grove	Cavan Way	Dean Forest Way
Kelling Way	London Road	Oakworth Avenue
Oxenhope Way	Swanwick Lane	Tanfield Lane

Karen Ford, Head of Regulatory Unit

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

CONTACTS

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0906 calls cost £1.53 per/min, 0871 calls cost 10p per/min at all times. Plus network extras. Mobiles will be considerably higher. TEXT 88833 cost £1.50 per message.Participants must be 18 years or over. JMedia UK, London SW4 7BX. W/C 110412 Helpline: 0871 434 4131.

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 382159**

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 382085**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTM sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380857**

SARAH 39yr old female looking for a little extra out of life, seeks discreet male in similar circumstance to enjoy intimate mutually respectful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 379557**

KERRY 31 outgoing confident with laidback attitude, looking for relaxed relationship with tactile male, any age/looks/size or status. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381697**

BEE tall slim attractive 39, loves good conversation, sensitive but confident people and WLTM someone well balanced to entertain and appreciate. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 378477**

CARRIE 38 blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380881**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380441**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380001**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 382081**

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EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381363**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381727**

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTM him. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 379203**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 380853**

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTM male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381365**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual for a sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 379975**

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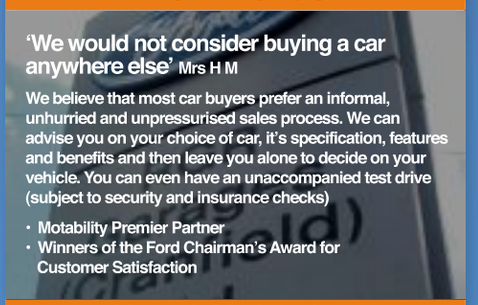

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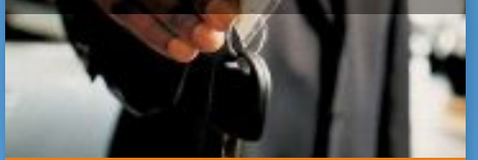

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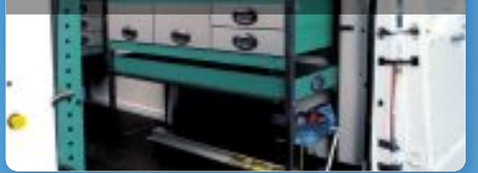

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Missed goal could have proved costly

A FOURTH Dons goal which was strangely not given against Tranmere angered skipper Dean Lewington – although it had no baring on the game's result.

Dons were 3-0 up and cruising when they were awarded a free-kick inside the box thanks to Tranmere's keeper picking up a back pass.

Darren Potter's effort clearly bounced into the goal after being fired through a crowd of visiting players on the line, sparking celebrations among the stadiummk faithful.

However, the goal was inexplicably missed by the officials and the score remained at three.

A terrible decision to award Peterborough a penalty in last year's play-off semi-finals cost Dons dearly and the club want the important calls to go their way with the play-offs again looming.

Manager Karl Robinson said: "Referees have let us down a few times this season.

"Against Tranmere it didn't cost us but it could have.

"Dean Lewington went ballistic. It was 3-0 but we lost in the play-offs last year on a key decision, and key decisions need to start going our way.

"The first free-kick was over the line, it then hit a hand, rebounded back over and they cleared it."

Dons aim to break Scunthorpe streak

DONS will need to break a ten-game unbeaten run if they are to take home three points from Saturday's trip to Scunthorpe United.

The Iron had relegation fears for much of the season but have pulled away from trouble thanks to the streak which stretches back to February.

Six of those games have been draws, four of them without goals, which suggests that Alan Knill's men will be a tough nut to crack.

It was also a goalless draw at stadiummk earlier in the season but Dons, with 100 goals to their name this term, will be confident of finding the target as they look to move a step closing to assuring a play-off berth.

Their spot in the top six is not mathematically secure but only an almighty collapse would see them slip out now after a four point Easter haul.

Brentford, Stevenage and Carlisle all still have hopes of clinching a play-off spot along with Notts County who have grabbed the all important sixth position.

But these clubs have work to do as it is Dons who already have points in the bank.

Robinson said: "We've a tough three games ahead of us, Scunthorpe, then home to Sheffield United then Rochdale.

"Notts County still have to play Brentford and Carlisle still have to play Stevenage. Carlisle and Brentford have to play Sheffield Wednesday too.

"They've got an awful lot to play for but we've got points in the bag and that's the most important thing at this time of the year."

Spot kick ace Shaun is Robbo's best find

DOUBLE penalty hero Shaun Williams is Karl Robinson's find of the season.

The Dons manager has been blown away by the performances of the Dubliner who was a capture from the little known Irish outfit Sporting Fingal.

Williams was initially signed as a central midfielder but he has operated both there and in the middle of defence, putting in a number of assured performances wherever he has been needed.

He has also become lethal from the spot, slamming home four penalties in the previous four games.

The last two came either side of a Stephen Gleeson strike on Easter Monday when Tranmere were swept aside 3-0 to end a four game winless streak.

Robinson told MK SPORT: "Shaun Williams has been magnificent this year, one of the finds of the season.

"For me he's been the best buy of the year, I think he's a complete and utter talent. He's got an unbelievable future in England."

Williams was one of a number of players to put in an excellent shift as Ronnie Moore's Tranmere came unstuck.

Midfield duo Stephen Gleeson and Darren Potter, who Robinson has described as a pair of rolls royces, pulled the strings in the centre of the park.

Jabo Ibehre was a strong presence up front and David Martin made a penalty save in between the sticks when the game was still finely balanced at 1-0.

The keeper got down low to his left to parry away Jake Cassidy's placed penalty after Gary MacKenzie bundled down Robbie Weir, and Dons were let off the hook again when Ian Goodison missed the simplest of rebounds by blazing into the stands.

It was an afternoon to forget for Goodison who dithered at the back to allow Gleeson an easy close range finish for Dons' second goal.

And Williams did not pass up his opportunities as Cassidy did.

He fired in his first via the upright after Dan Powell had tumbled over an outstretched leg and was calmness personified with the second when Charlie MacDonald was dragged back.

In all it was a professional display in a game which Dons controlled but Tranmere will look back on what might have been after their missed spot-kick in what was a quiet first half.

Fifth placed Dons now have a five point cushion to outside the play-off spots, essentially six when you take goal difference into account.

With just four games left a play-off semi final with Huddersfield is looking a likely scenario but Dons will hope to leapfrog the Terriers, who are just three points ahead, to ensure their second leg tie will be a home one at stadiummk.

After complaining about two games in three days over Easter, the first of which being Saturday's 1-1 draw with Preston, Robinson may well be happy with the four points.

He said: "Overall it was a fantastic performance. We rode our luck with their penalty, and took our foot off the pedal for 20 minutes which I was extremely angry with at half-time.

"Once you have got teams you have to be more ruthless with them.

"Shaun showed tremendous class with the way he put his penalties away. He pushed Stephen Gleeson all the way for man of the match, and the opposition say that Gleeson and Potter are the best midfielders in the league."

Jump for joy: Shaun Williams celebrates after his second penalty hit the net. Dons wore black in tribute to Jim Marshall.

Safe hands: David Martin keeps out Jake Cassidy's penalty

MK Dons assistant boss JOHN GORMAN writes exclusively for MK NEWS every week

WE WERE a wee bit disappointed not to win at Preston on Saturday, I think we deserved a victory as we were very comfortable.

It was Sir Tom Finney's 90th birthday celebrations and it was great to see so many people turn out for him.

When I was a player at Carlisle he used to do reports for the papers and he always said that I was one of his favourite full backs.

I used to think that if Tom Finney says something like that about you then you must be doing okay. It was an honour for him to mention you.

There was also a lovely atmosphere against Tranmere when the club paid tribute to Jim Marshall who sadly passed away last week.

The fans got behind the team, we needed them, and although it wasn't the biggest of crowds when it comes to numbers they were great on attitude.

We need to just get over the line to secure our play-off place, and with the next home game being Sheffield United we'd hope for a bumper crowd.

I think that game will prove how good we are and we might end up playing them in the play-offs.

If you look at our form away from home, although there have been draws, they have been respectable draws where every one could have been a win.

Last minute goals have been a bit of a nightmare, when teams have thrown caution to the wind.

We needed the win against Tranmere as we have lost two home games which hasn't been like us.

It was good to bounce back in fine style and it leaves us in good stead for a play-off spot.

Reaching 100 goals for the first time in the club's history was very pleasing.

We do a lot of work in training, including practicing finishing every day, even the day of the match.

Two of the Tranmere goals were penalties but they were worthy of goals anyway.

THE LAST FOUR GAMES

APR 14 SCUNTHORPE (A)
APR 21 SHEFF UTD (H)
APR 28 ROCHDALE (A)
MAY 5 WALSALL (H)

LEAGUE ONE TABLE

			Home					Away						
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Charlton	42	13	6	2	41	17	14	4	3	33	14	43	91
2	Sheff Wed	42	15	4	2	44	18	10	4	7	30	27	29	83
3	Sheff United	41	15	3	3	49	24	10	4	6	31	19	37	82
4	Huddersfield	42	12	6	3	32	19	7	11	3	43	26	30	74
5	DONS	42	11	6	4	44	21	8	8	5	34	24	33	71
6	Notts County	42	12	5	4	36	24	7	4	10	29	31	10	66
7	Carlisle	41	11	7	3	37	28	6	8	6	22	31	0	66
8	Brentford	42	10	5	6	35	22	7	7	7	23	24	12	63
9	Stevenage	41	7	10	3	30	22	7	8	6	25	19	14	60
10	Colchester	42	7	10	4	33	30	5	8	8	21	28	-4	54
11	Bournemouth	42	8	4	9	21	22	6	7	8	24	27	-4	53
12	Hartlepool	42	5	6	10	18	19	8	7	6	26	29	-4	52
13	Tranmere	42	9	9	3	25	14	4	3	14	19	33	-3	51
14	Scunthorpe	42	5	9	7	27	29	5	11	5	26	24	0	50
15	Yeovil Town	42	9	3	9	31	33	4	8	9	23	35	-14	50
16	Preston	42	6	8	7	27	33	6	5	10	23	31	-14	49
17	Bury	42	7	7	7	30	32	6	3	12	25	42	-19	49
18	Oldham	42	8	4	9	23	24	5	5	11	22	38	-17	48
19	Walsall	42	7	8	6	26	25	2	11	8	21	26	-4	46
20	Leyton Orient	42	5	5	11	19	31	7	5	9	23	36	-25	46
21	Wycombe	42	7	5	9	32	32	4	4	13	27	46	-19	42
22	Exeter City	42	7	7	7	25	25	2	4	15	12	39	-27	38
23	Chesterfield	42	6	6	9	22	29	2	6	13	26	44	-25	36
24	Rochdale	41	5	8	7	24	30	2	6	13	15	38	-29	35

Not including last night's matches.

MKSPORT

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SPORTSSHORTS

TOURING CARS

JAMES Nash is hoping to make it third time lucky as the World Touring Car Championship heads to Africa for the third round of the season.

The Newport Pagnell Team AoN driver hasn't been able to score points in either of the first two rounds after a first lap crash in Italy and a suspension problem in Spain.

He is hoping for better fortune this weekend at the Race of Morocco on Marrakech's street circuit, but will still be held down by a 30kg weight penalty imposed until some parts of his turbocharged Ford Focus have been redesigned, made and fitted.

This restriction will also impact his Team AoN team mate Tom Chilton and has made a points finish inside the top ten extra difficult to achieve.

Nash said: "It has been a bit frustrating so far this season. We've had to carry a lot of extra ballast and it has held us back from where we should be.

"This is particularly so in qualifying, even taking into account the fact that the Ford Focus is brand new and we're only at the very early stage of its development.

"In the WTCC unless you can qualify in the top ten you can almost write your weekend off before a racing wheel has turned. The competition is that tight towards the front.

"Nevertheless, we have been making some real progress with the Focus but you'd be forgiven for thinking we hadn't when we're qualifying P14 or P15 and finishing races 12th.

"The team has been working very hard and we have now made the new parts that would allow us to remove the extra ballast.

"Unfortunately Marrakech has come around a bit too soon and we haven't track tested them.

"It is for reasons of safety therefore we're not going to use the new parts this coming weekend, a decision made by the team that I fully respect.

"We should though be able to test after Marrakech so all being well we will have a lighter race car for the next event."

The race will be Nash's first in Africa and is one he is particularly looking forward to.

He said: "Marrakech is a street track too which are always fun. Street tracks have a habit of throwing up one or two surprise results, probably because nobody can test there beforehand and I hope that I can be one of the surprises.

"Qualifying in the top ten would be a good start and will be my primary aim."

RUGBY UNION

MILTON Keynes' play-off rivals Windsor have leapfrogged the city side in the Southern Counties North – grabbing the all important play-off spot in the process.

City were not in action this weekend but Windsor had a game in hand to play against strugglers Malborough, which they were awarded after a walkover.

The outcome meant that Windsor went above MK into second – where both sides want to finish to earn a promotion play-off against a club from the Southern Counties South division.

With both teams on an equal number of points all eyes now turn to this Saturday's final fixtures of the season, with City hoping for a maximum five point bonus try win when they face Alchester at home.

Windsor will also be looking for the four tries needed for a maximum points haul but the Berkshire club have a much tougher ask, a home game against champions Beaconsfield.

ATHLETICS

TWO MK Athletic Club members were part of the silver-medal winning Great Britain team in the 4x200m relay at the World Masters Indoor Championships in Jyvaskyla, Finland.

F50 athlete Jan Hardcastle and F55 runner Jan Lawson also achieved personal bests at the event, the former achieving a top score of 2336 points in the pentathlon and the latter sprinting a best time of 9.44s in the 60m heats.

KARTING

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD city karter Sammy Oram-Jones is preparing to compete at the highest level in karting for 13 to 16 year olds. For more on his progress visit www.mk-news.co.uk/sport.

WATER POLO

NEW players over 16 are welcome at MK's fledgling water polo club.

They train at Stantonbury Leisure Centre on Thursdays, between 8.30pm and 10pm.

ICE HOCKEY

First leg lead slips agonisingly away

So close: Lightning at the end of Saturday's first leg win, which didn't prove to be enough Pic: Jez Tibbetts

Lightning 7 Slough Jets 4
Slough Jets 7 Lightning 3

IT WAS all smiles in the city on Saturday night as Lightning built a commanding first leg lead in their crunch play-off tie.

At one stage of the evening the home side were in fact 5-1 in front, but Slough began their comeback at Planet Ice and then completed the job at their own rink.

Lightning made an excellent start and made the most of Slough's failure to contain them with a goal just after the three minute mark, Leigh Jamieson slotting in an unassisted strike.

Jets man Joe Greener fired home a slapshot to level against the run of play but Lightning refused to be fazed and were rewarded when Lukas Zatopek and Jamieson set up Adam Brittle to fire past Greg Rockman.

Most Lightning fans were still celebrating the second goal when a third arrived, just 33 seconds later, thanks to player coach Nick Poole who fed returning Adam Carr who slotted into Rockman's net.

Jets called time out in an effort to restore order but Carr connected with a Michael Farn pass to add another and it was 5-1 just minutes into the second period when Matt Towalski supplied Michael Wales.

This, however, signalled a Slough fightback and the whole complexion of the tie was changed thanks to three visiting goals in five hectic minutes.

Darius Pliskauskas, Ryan Watt and Dan Davies were the men to find the target to bring the match back to 5-4.

There was another twist though as Lightning pulled away again thanks to another strike by Jamieson and a third period goal from Tuomas Tikkanen which followed a right wing surge.

The lead was a healthy one but the second leg was a different story as Jets powered back in a topsy turvy game which saw the lead repeatedly change hands.

It was fast, furious and physical end-to-end ice hockey for over 18 minutes before the deadlock was broken by Slough's Greener.

Just seven minutes into the second session Adam Calder scored a short-handed goal, and four minutes later Pliskauskas levelled the tie by making it 3-0.

Davies put Slough ahead for the first time all weekend just after the final period started, but Lightning hit straight back with two goals in four minutes to reclaim the advantage.

Calder restored parity with his second goal while Lightning had two men in the penalty box, and Davies also bagged a second to reclaim the lead at 55m 17s.

Blaz Emersic then blasted home his late penalty before the heartbreaking final drama.

FORMULA ONE

Red Bulls look for Chinese success

WORLD Champion Sebastian Vettel remains in a confident mood despite a far from ideal start to the new Formula One season for Red Bull Racing.

The third grand prix of the campaign takes place in China this weekend and the Tilbrook based outfit already know that they face a much tougher examination from their rivals this time around.

Vettel won both of the first two races as Red Bull dominated 2011 but he hasn't stood on the top step this year, picking up a total of just 18 points in Australia and Malaysia.

Red Bull have been disadvantaged by rule changes which have forced them to modify their all conquering car and the McLarens in particular look to be a much bigger threat this year.

Vettel, however, still has complete faith in the city's constructors champions and is refusing to panic just yet.

Number one: Vettel is used to winning

The German has been in the city to work on the car during the recent three week gap between races.

He finished second in Australia but a collision with a backmarker in Malaysia saw him tumble down the field to 11th.

A fuming Vettel later described the Indian driver involved, Narain Karthikeyan, as an 'idiot'.

He has stood by that outburst but has conceded it has not been the best start to the season by his and the team's high standards.

He said: "I admit, the first two races weren't exactly perfect but they weren't that bad either.

"We proved we were able to compete with the strongest teams and that's very important.

"When you get a mishap like the one I had in Malaysia, however, well then even we are helpless – but that's just how F1 works.

"We now have 18 more races ahead of us and we will do all we can to defend our titles.

"I have total faith in the team, the car and myself.

"There's still much for us to do, but together as a team we can accomplish anything."

BASKETBALL

Lions beaten ahead of massive weekend

Lions 93 Plymouth Raiders 100

LIONS face a season defining two games this weekend as their play-off hopes continue to hang on a knife-edge.

With just four British Basketball League matches left to play, Mike New's side are desperate to break into the top eight to book a place in the season ending play-off tournament.

The city outfit are currently one place below where they need to be in ninth after a home defeat to Plymouth Raiders on Friday.

But they crucially face two of their nearest rivals in this weekend's two games which means it is a make or break period for New and his charges.

First up is a home match with Cheshire Jets on Friday, who sit above Lions in eighth, the final play-off spot, with a two point advantage.

This will be followed by an away trip to Mersey Tigers on Sunday, a team who are one place below Lions in the standings, locked on the same total of 16 points.

New knows that two victories would not only boost his own side's chances, it would strike a blow to their near challengers too.

Lions will fancy their chances of picking up points in their final game of the season against bottom club Durham Wildcats with their other remaining fixture against Friday's conquerers Plymouth.

The latest setback means that Lions' dismal run of results has now stretched to just one win in 12 matches – a sequence which has seen hopes of a top four finish fade away.

It was a case of a missed opportunity for the city side who led after the first three quarters only to let the victory slide away in the final stanza.

Lions looked much the stronger against second-placed Plymouth in the opening stages and led 32-24 after an extremely high-scoring first quarter.

The advantage was extended with an 8-2 opening to the second quarter and the lead peaked at 55-35 before the Raiders began to bite back.

They had trimmed the gap to just 56-48 at the end of the quarter and the lead was narrowed further to just four points at the end of the third, as Plymouth gradually chipped away at the Lions advantage before a storming final quarter.

A 7-0 Plymouth burst got them started and that run became 16-6 over the first five minutes of the period.

Lions had it at a one possession game in the final minute but Raiders got home.

Tip off against Cheshire is 7.30pm.

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Red Bulls target first win in China – page 71

Robbo raves as Dons bring up a 'remarkable' century

BY DAN PALMER

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KARL Robinson has saluted his Dons centurions – and believes that there's no need for a twenty-plus goal striker in his squad.

Free-scoring MK reached the magical 100 goal milestone on Monday when Tranmere were swept aside 3-0, a record achievement the club's boss has described as 'remarkable'.

Dean Bowditch is currently leading scorer at stadiummk with 13 strikes to his name, but a lethal forward with a strike rate at the top of the league's scoring charts would be a top priority for many fans.

Fellow promotion hopefuls Huddersfield Town and Sheffield United boast Jordan Rhodes and Ched Evans in their ranks, who have 35 and 26 league goals to their name respectively.

But Robinson doesn't see someone with that type of record as a necessity after watching his players share the goals around across the park.

He told MK SPORT: "You would just be adding 10 or 15 goals onto one of the top ten.

"Although the goals haven't come from any individual source, we've still broken a club record that was set in League 2 when there was also a run to Wembley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

"To surpass that is a remarkable achievement and it's a milestone. The club's never got to 100 goals before and we've still got four games to go.

"We want to score as many goals as we can, our stadium's been blessed with some wonderful goals this year and I'm very proud to stand on the touchline and watch those players perform."

Robinson spoke last week of his desire to bring Preston North End striker Neil Mellor to stadiummk in the summer and the former Liverpool forward would certainly be another potent threat for Dons should that move come off.

It is rare for a manager to talk so openly about his wish to sign another club's player but Mellor, who is currently out injured, distanced himself from the speculation on his Twitter page.

He said: "Karl (Robinson) is a friend I met during my Liverpool days. I'm PNE and committed to getting fit to help PNE. I've not had an offer from anyone."

Mark of respect: Karl Robinson holds up a Marshall branded Dons shirt as the club paid tribute to Jim Marshall on Monday. They did him proud, bringing up a century of goals. More Dons coverage on page 70.

Picture: Andy Handley.

There was also good news at the other end of the pitch against Tranmere, with keeper David Martin equalling his own club clean-sheets record by preventing the opposition from breaking through for the 16th time this season.

"It's a great, great achievement for any goalkeeper," Robinson said. "We're breaking records for clean sheets and goals and we're still not over the line yet.

"It shows how good League One is this year but I think our boys have performed to the best they could have."

Play-off heartbreak for Poole's Lightning

LIGHTNING'S player-coach Nick Poole said that he was 'incredibly proud' of his players after his side suffered play-off agony against Slough Jets on Sunday.

The city side were knocked out in the last eight by the Berkshire club who triumphed 11-10 on aggregate after two legs of ice hockey which seemingly featured every emotion imaginable.

Saturday's home leg saw Lightning put one foot in the next round with a convincing 7-4 victory at Planet Ice, but the Jets struck back 24 hours later with a 7-3 win which saw them through.

With the score locked at 10-10 at the end of the second leg in Slough, overtime was required to decide who progressed to the last four finals day at the Coventry Skydome.

There were no goals in the nervy first four minutes of the extra period but Slough managed to find the target again to break Lightning's hearts.

Cruelly it was a former Lightning skater, Mindy Kieras, who had the last word with a shot which took an unfortunate deflection off the stick of MK's Lukas Zatopek before looping over net minder Barry Hollyhead and in.

It was pure heartbreak for Lightning and their large group of travelling fans who had earlier experienced ecstacy when their side forced the overtime period with just 18 seconds left of normal time.

Blaz Emersic levelled the scores with a penalty in highly dramatic scenes at the death but it wasn't to be for Lightning who have now finished the 2011/12 season without a trophy to their name.

Poole said: "We always knew this weekend would be very close and would probably come down to the final period on the Sunday, as there has been so little to separate ourselves and Slough all season.

"Both teams gave it everything they had and it was a great weekend of hockey.

"I'm incredibly proud of our players for the commitment and the determination they showed all weekend.

"With just a bit of luck or one lucky break our way it could have so easily been the other way around.

"Congratulations to Slough, we wish them well in the finals."

FOR MORE TURN TO PAGE 71